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PREVIEWS: M3 GRANT ■ STUDEBAKER ■ E25 ■ "GEPARD" ■ AND MORE...

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THE GECKO

Ian Ruscoe has fun with Italeri's troublesome MH-60K

LAST STAND AT LENINGRAD

Noel Petroni builds a wintry scene around Dragon's 'Initial' Tiger I kit

MINI MONSTER

Alex Clark reviews Cromwell Models' latest Combat 72 kit, The Mifleset

CZECH MATE

Jan Peters turns Tamiya's Hetzer against its former owners

INSIDE WHAT'S NEW AT NUREMBERG '08?

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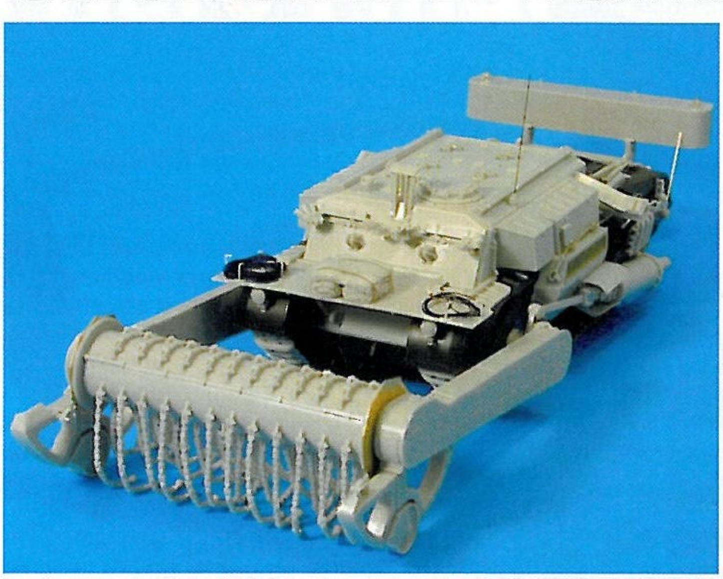
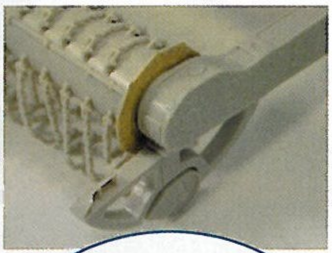
CHURCHILL 'TOAD' Heavy Flail Tank



This very extensive resin conversion has just been released by Accurate Armour and is designed for the Tamiya Churchill Mk-7 kit and transforms it into one of the most impressive mine clearing vehicles ever made. TOAD was produced and issued but never used in anger by the Royal Engineers. The conversion set comes complete with etched brass detail set, illustrated colour instructions and a set of colour decals. If you ever get the chance to visit the Royal Engineers Museum at Brompton Barracks, Chatham, Kent (where they have one on display) you can't help but be impressed by the sheer size and presence of this mechanical monster, which I think makes it the perfect subject for a modelling project. For more information and price check out Accurate Armour's advert on page 45.



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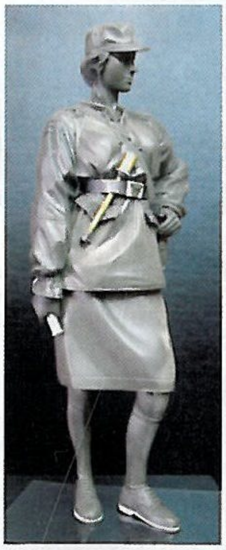
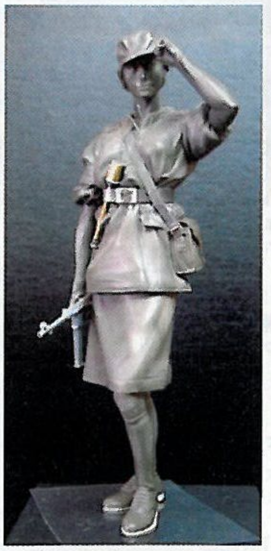
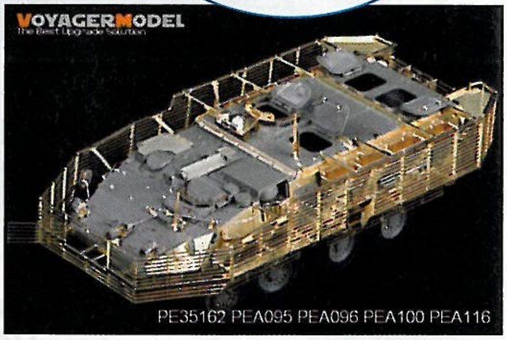
Model Wholesale UK have just informed us that they are now the official UK wholesaler for Tristar and that we should now be able to enjoy a 10-30% reduction on last year's RRP of Tristar products, which is certainly good news for everyone. They are now also the exclusive UK importer for the excellent Lion Roar range of etched detail sets including the mad M2 half track update set, (see our review on p42 of issue 19) and these amazing Nebelwerfer kits.
For further information e-mail: *info@modelwholesaleuk.com*





WARSAW WARRIOR

Adalbertus are proud to announce their latest release of a Home Army Courier 1944, this 120mm figure depicts one of the 4000 women soldiers of the Polish Army who fought against the Germans during the Warsaw Uprising 1944, many of whom wore Waffen SS camouflage smocks captured from a German warehouse.
For further details and availability check out *www.adalbertus.com.pl*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STRYKE ME DOWN

For those wanting to build the ultimate M1126 Stryker should check out Voyager's incredible 1:35 Stryker detail set which includes not only the slat armour but also all of their basic upgrade set, spaced armour and suspension cover sets. If you love working with etched brass this one should keep you both busy and happy for quite some time!
For further info check out *www.voyagermodel.com* for the full range of updates available.

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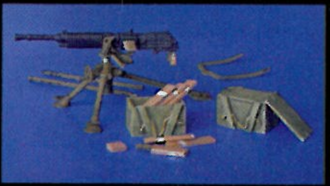
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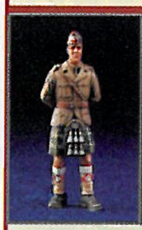
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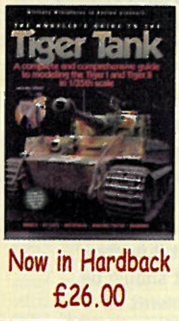

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M3 GRANT
ACADEMY
HOBBY MODEL KITS
ATLANTA II
1/35th Scale

GRANTED, IT IS BETTER

Graeme Carruthers gets his hands on Academy's long awaited M3 Grant tank.

The M3 Grant was, in a simplified description, the American M3 Lee fitted with a cast turret and used in the second half of the desert campaign. British spec required that a larger cast turret be fitted to allow the radio to be moved from the hull to the back of the turret.

Until now there has only been one plastic kit in 1:35, of the Grant, Tamiya's dimensionally inaccurate and thickly detailed effort from the 70's. This is Academy's third kit in their M3 series and even though there were initial problems with the recent M7 Priest kit, Academy have tried to address some of these.

Now let's see how the Grant fairs. Unlike the first two kits which were moulded in dark green, this kit is moulded in a tan coloured plastic. If you already have the M3 Lee kit then there will be no surprises here as the sprues are just the same, both internally and externally and with the miss placing of some of the hull rivets. The M3 Lee turret is absent and a new sprue containing the new cast turret and other 'British' fittings is included instead. The cast turret is in reality a deceptively complex shape with lots of angles and Academy have made a brave stab at it. However the edges on the turret roof look too sharp and there appears to be some issues with the angles around the right hand side of the turret hatch and on the curve of the left hand side. The turret also appears to sit too high on the hull. These issues aside it looks enough like the Grant turret that some modellers will probably be happy with it

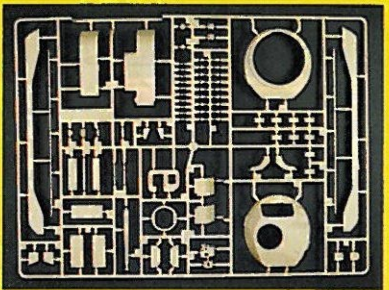
The fittings for the sunshade device along the hull side are particularly badly done, the kit provides you with two long strips with rectangular 'blobs' placed along its length to represent the u-shaped slots. These pieces are best discarded and either replaced with plastic card, or one of the inevitable aftermarket etch sets, or even left off completely.

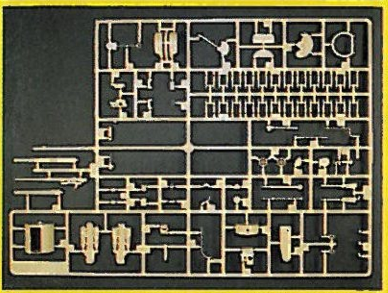
Spare track links are provided and are the WD 212 type, known as the double 'I' block, this type were the ones most commonly seen fitted to the Grant and early British Shermans. However the kit's main tracks are the plain block type produced in a very stiff vinyl, which may prove difficult to wrap around the sprockets and sit correctly. At least they were better moulded than the dimple strewn examples that came with my M7 Priest.

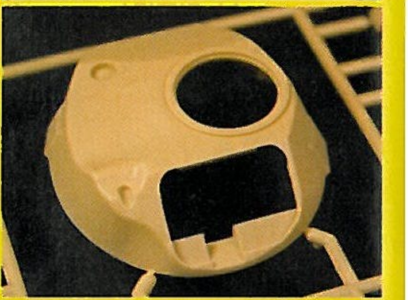
The main issue modellers had with the original M3 Lee kit was that the suspension units were too tall. Academy sorted this problem in their M7 Priest kit and gave you correctly sized suspension units as one of the suspension options. Surprisingly these new correct units are missing from the Grant kit which only contains the incorrect units as found in the original M3 Lee kit. I guess this is one way of Academy making sure that you have to buy one of their M7 Priests?

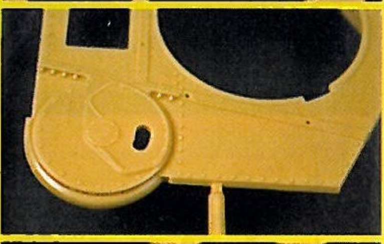
Only two decal options are provided and these are from unknown units however one of the options is for a named tank, Atlanta II.

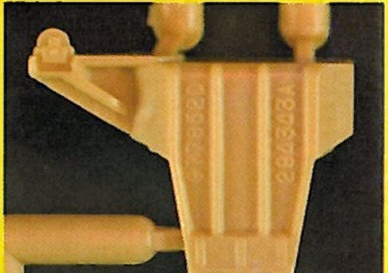
This kit is a great improvement on the old Tamiya kit but after nearly 40 years so it should be. There are some problems as mentioned above with the omission of the improved suspension units being the strangest and most disappointing. I am sure that once the aftermarket guys kick into gear then a good rendition of the Grant can be built. ■

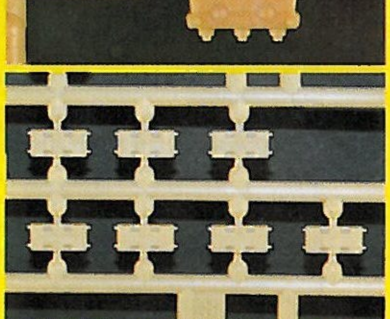


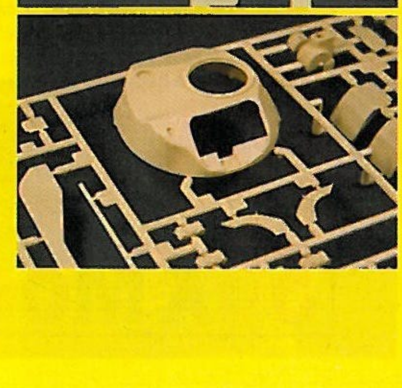












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1/72nd etch

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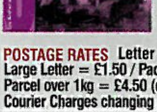

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LAST STAND AT LENINGRAD

Noel Petroni recreates a vignette depicting the bitter fighting around lake Ladoga during the battle for Leningrad.

Being the most popular tank in WWII, the Tiger surely doesn't need a historical introduction! So I'll just explain a bit of history about the diorama, which depicts the Leningrad period.

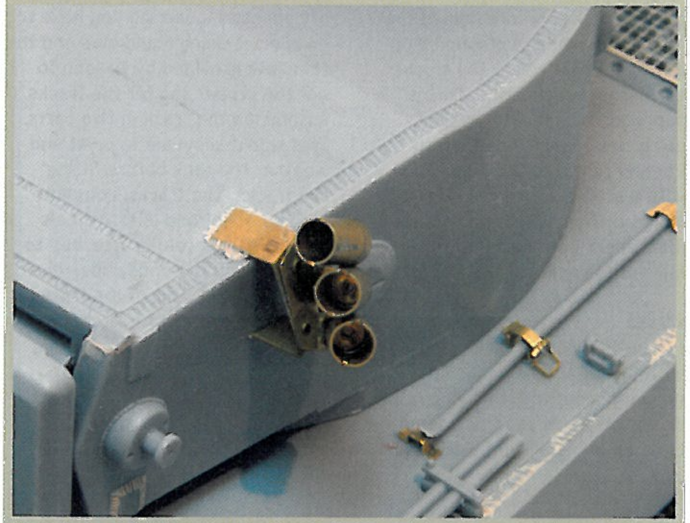
The siege of Leningrad started on 8th September 1942 and lasted until January 27th 1944. The diorama is set in the spring of 1943, during the defensive battles of Lake Ladoga where fierce encounters with Soviet troops and tanks took place. During the month of February 1943 Battalion 502 had only five Tigers operational and were numbered with one digit from 1-5. Months later fresh Tigers arrived and during the spring period, 1st company adopted a two-digit number to their Tigers. To make my Tiger somewhat more interesting I gave it a number '2' being the one digit numbering system used in February and re-numbered it '21' using the two-digit numbering adopted in the spring in which this diorama was set. I wanted the whitewash to look worn from constant spring rains with the previous number '2' exposed through the fading whitewash. The story portrayed in the diorama is of three surviving crew-members from a knocked out panzer that have managed to make it to relative safety, while one of the crew points in the direction of where the incident took place.

CONSTRUCTION

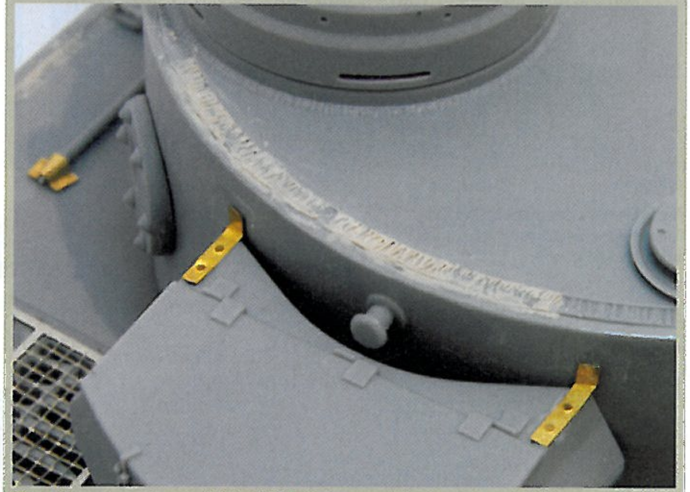
All I can say is, wow! What a fabulous kit it is! I built the kit straight from the box, not a single aftermarket part was used...well just one...Aber engine screens. It absolutely baffles me why Dragon did not include the engine screens! The parts fit together extremely well. It's an easy kit to put together, but caution has to be taken when selecting the part to be glued, so I suggest double-checking the instruction sheet. There were a couple of instances where I nearly fitted the wrong part! The instruction sheet can be confusing since there are three different versions of Tiger that can be built and a moments lack of concentration and an incorrect part might be glued instead.

The smoke dischargers are supplied as photo-etched parts or injection moulding. I went for the

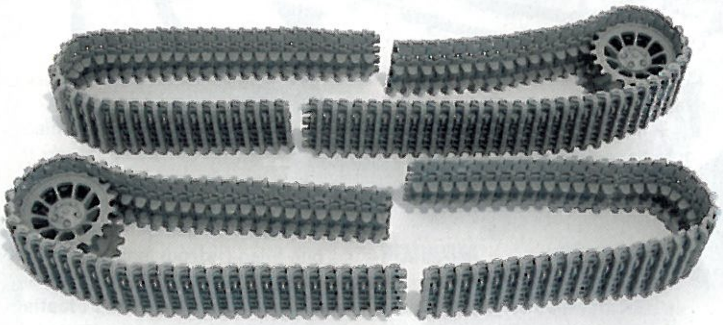
▶



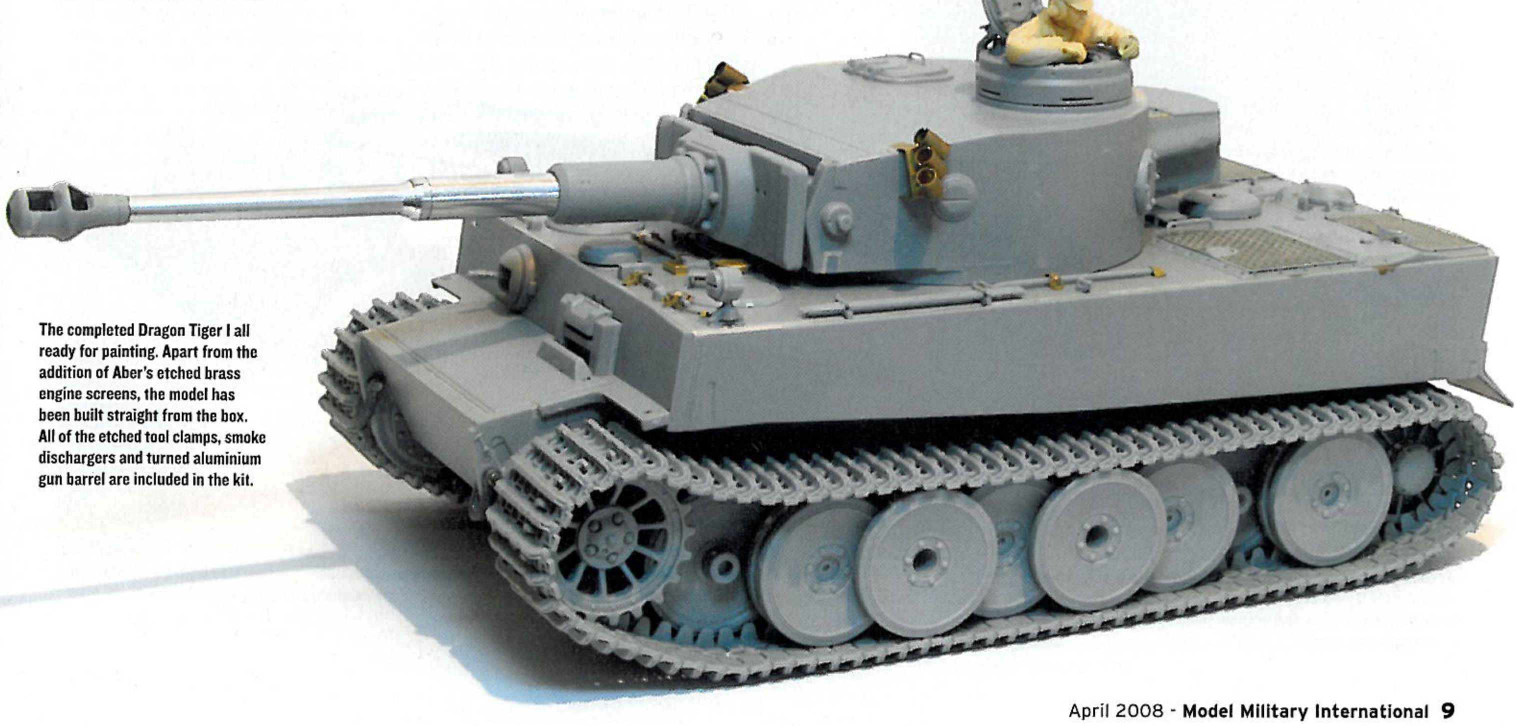
Dragon have supplied the turret mounted smoke dischargers in etched brass as well as in injection plastic. The author opted to use the brass parts. The weld seams were added using Milliput and the weld effect was created by gently pressing the putty with the tip of a scalpel.



Where the turret roof meets with the SIDES, there was a slight gap on the model. This again was corrected with the use of Miliput. Note the Panzer III style BIN, these were fitted to early Tiger Is before the introduction of the standard pattern bin seen on all later Tigers.



The tracks supplied in the kit are Dragon's innovative 'Magic Tracks'. These are injection moulded and have already been removed from the sprues at the factory, so it's simply a case of assembling them using the included jigs, which are designed so that they will fit perfectly around the sprockets and idlers, and have the correct amount of track sag!



The completed Dragon Tiger I all ready for painting. Apart from the addition of Aber's etched brass engine screens, the model has been built straight from the box. All of the etched tool clamps, smoke dischargers and turned aluminium gun barrel are included in the kit.

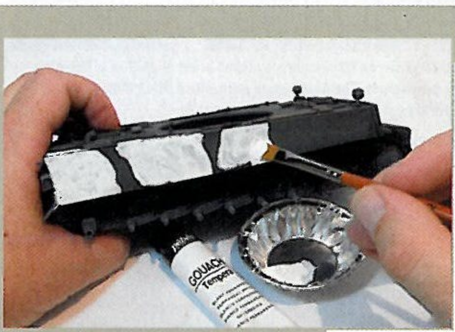
photo etch but before I glued the part, I removed the plastic lip on the turret roof where the smoke discharger bracket sits. This is supposed to simulate welding, but is not convincing at all, so I gently removed the plastic lip with a scalpel and replaced it with Milliput. Then, with a fine pointed instrument I pressed into the Milliput to replicate the weld effect.

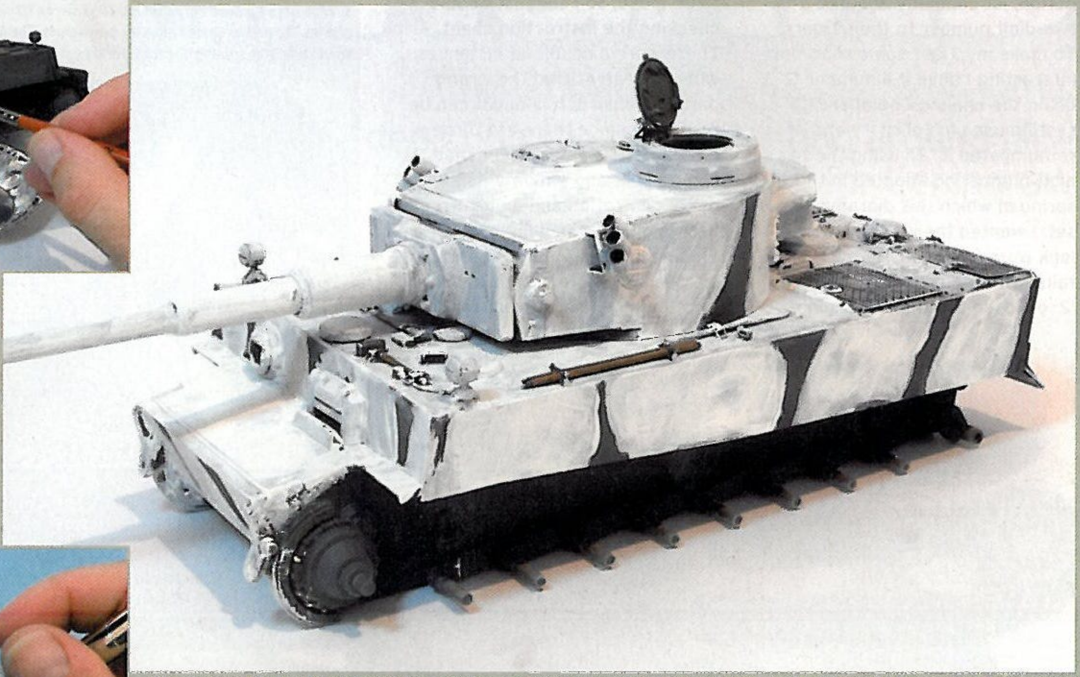
TRACKS

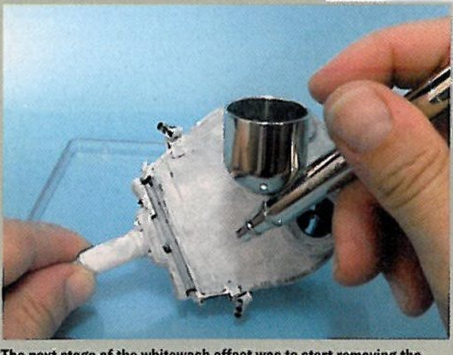
I used the 'Magic Track' supplied with the kit and have absolutely no complaints with this innovative design. They come in two separate bags for left and right sides and are supplied loose. All you have to do is glue! Using liquid glue and the template provided by Dragon to get the proper sag for the tracks, I assembled the track in two parts. This would allow me to paint and weather the tank before fitting the tracks. The tracks, complete with sprocket and idlers wheels can than be carefully attached to the tank and the ends super-glued together. I airbrushed the tracks with Vallejo Model Air 56 and left to dry overnight before applying a coat of Vallejo Matt Varnish. The varnish will seal and protect the paint from the weathering procedure to come. I mixed CMK SD08 & SD03 pigments to a consistency of paste and liberally covered the tracks with this mix. When the paste was completely dry, it was dusted off with an old stiff brush. Since the diorama is going to be set during the final part of winter when snow would be melting and mud would start forming in various areas, I thought a slight muddy appearance would be appropriate.

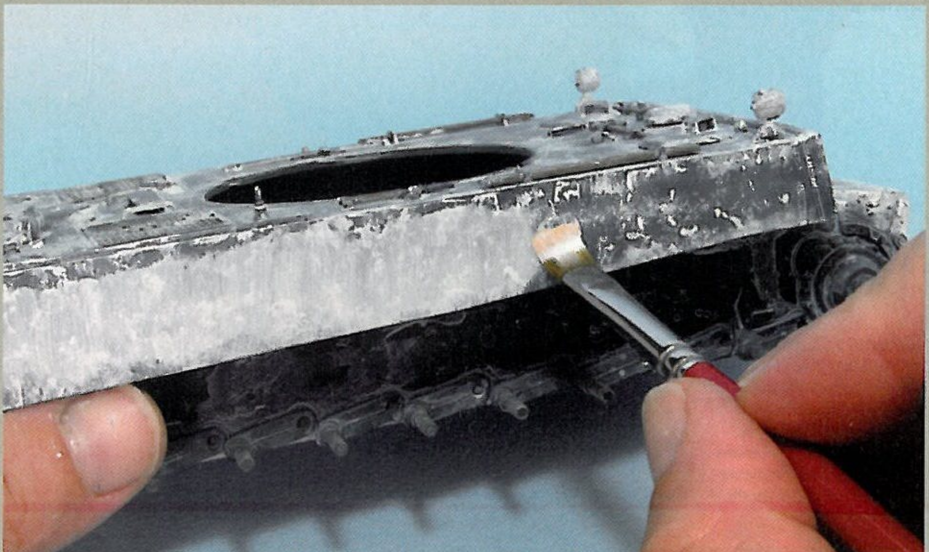
PANZER GREY & WHITEWASH

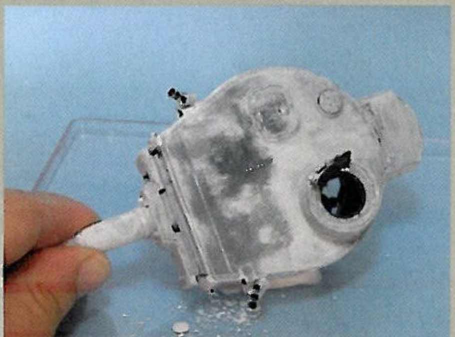
With the construction phase complete I airbrushed the model with a primer coat of Tamiya Deck Tan XF-55. After 24 hours drying time, I moved on to select Vallejo Model Air 54 Dark Grey Blue and 52 German Grey mixed approximately 60/40 respectively and airbrushed the tank with all the tools in place. Left to dry overnight, I then painted the wooden parts of all the tools and later gave them a wash of Burnt Umber oil paint. Bison Decal BD-35022 set was my choice and I hadn't used waterslide decals for a long time. I usually use rub-on transfers or paint the numbers by hand. To apply the Bison decals I referred to MMI issue 16 where the Last Post techniques page describes how to apply decals

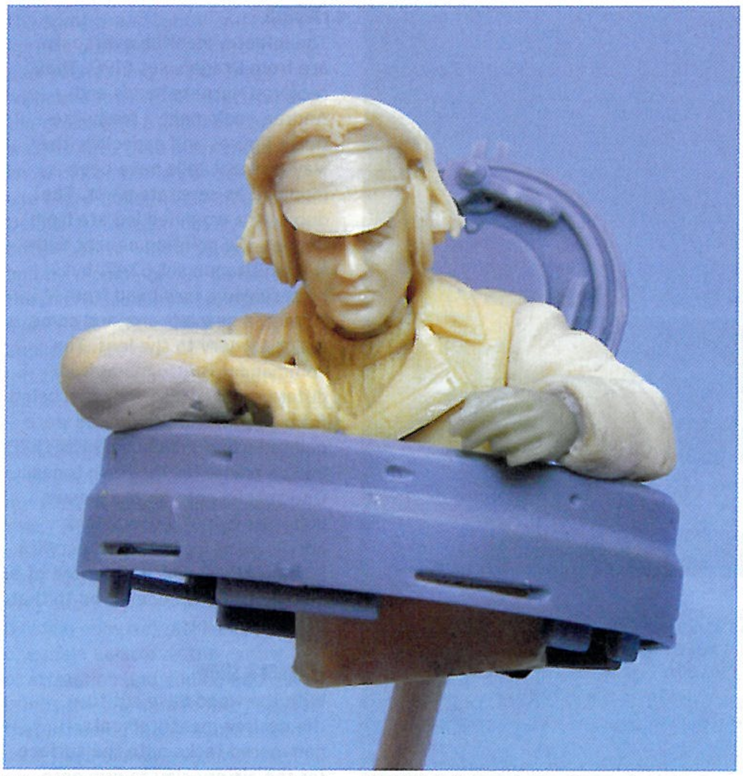

The whitewash scheme was applied using Gouache water soluble paint with a brush, just as it would have been on the real vehicle.


The whole model was painted using the Gouache Tempara White, on some areas the paint was applied more thickly than others. Neatness isn't an issue here, as on the real vehicles this temporary scheme was usually very hastily applied in the field and would look very scruffy.

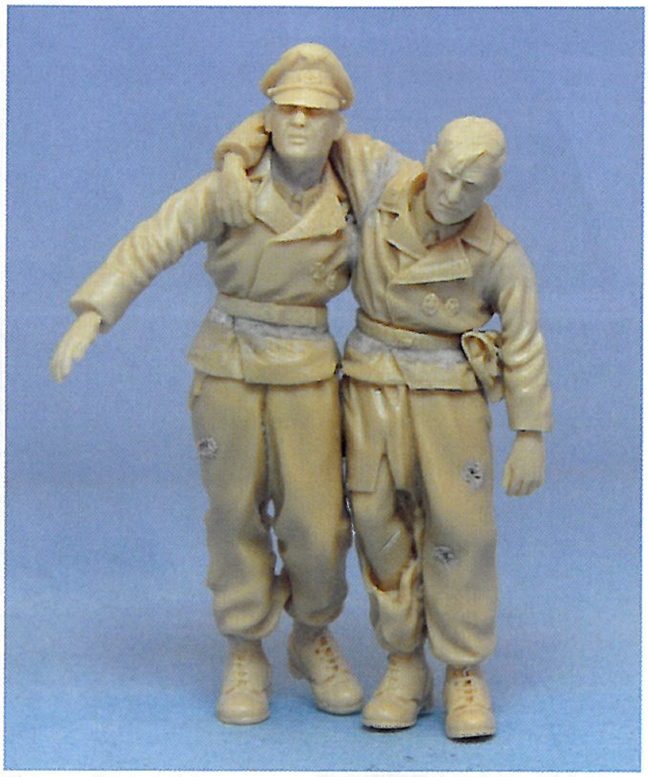

The next stage of the whitewash effect was to start removing the excess and this involved loading an airbrush with tap water, then spraying the water at a medium pressure.


If too much whitewash is removed with the airbrush, it is simply a case of reapplying some more Gouache, leaving it to dry for a few minutes and then repeating the 'pressure washing'. This also has the added advantage of layering the weathering for a more realistic finish.


As can be seen here the airbrush acts like a mini pressure-washer removing the Gouache. The amount being removed can be varied by regulating the pressure and the time and distance the brush is held over a particular spot.



Some minor surgery has been performed on the Jaguar Models Tank Commander to get the exact pose the author was after. Note the replacement hand and the filler on the bottom of both forearms.



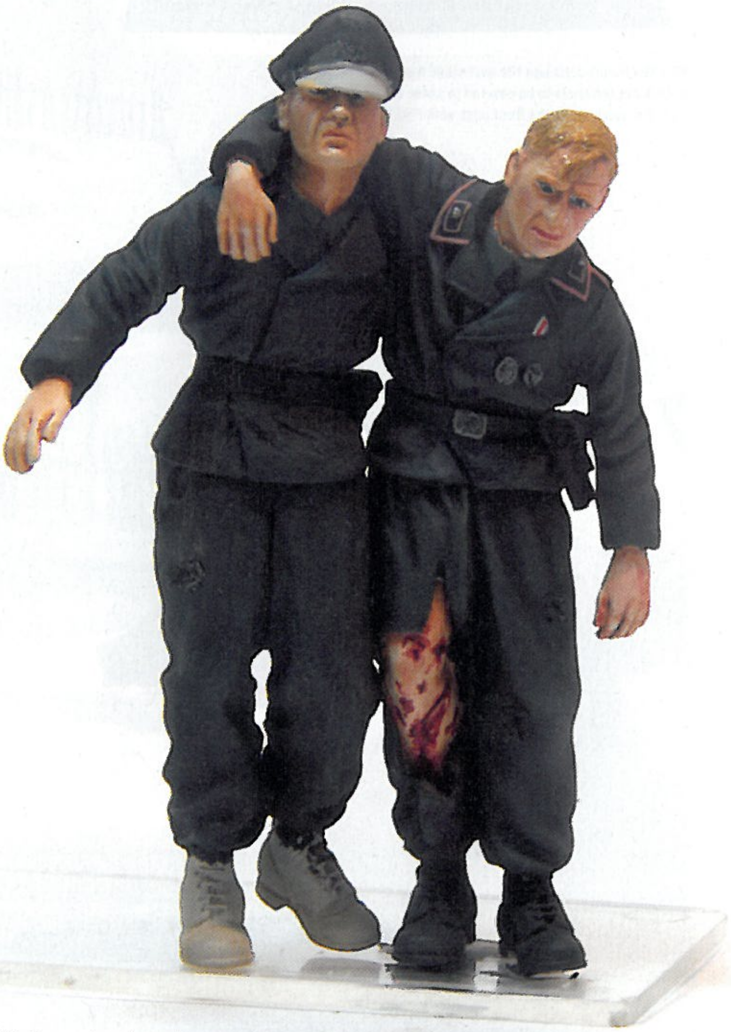
The commander and wounded crewman set are also from Jaguar Models. Both are beautifully sculpted and nicely cast, only a small amount of filler was needed on the joints of the arms and torsos. Note the extra tears added to the trousers by the author.

using Johnson's Klear.

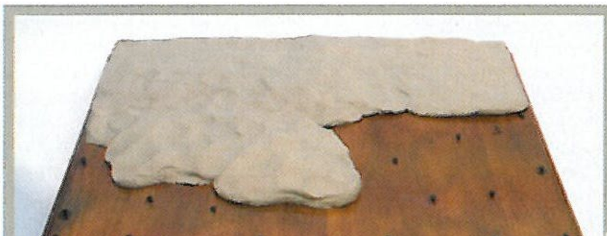
Actual wartime whitewash paint was water-soluble, so that it would run off the equipment when the first rain started to wash away the snow. Some years ago I had experimented on a model with 'gouache' (poster) paint and liked the worn-out whitewash effect . So I had a basic idea of what to expect and decided to use the same method on my Tiger. The process consists of applying white 'gouache tempera' paint with a flat brush onto the model. Now, gouache is not a permanent paint and when dry will dissolve with water. So, I squeezed a small amount of Pebeo Gouache Tempera white onto a palette and started giving the Tiger a whitewash. The amount applied by brush was random as I went along, from medium thick to thick in some areas. The next phase was to airbrush the whitewash with tap water. Setting the airbrush to medium pressure, I started airbrushing water directly onto the whitewash, which starts to dissolve in an uneven pattern. You can even control the amount of whitewash you wish to remove. Since I wanted a very worn whitewash I airbrushed more water varying the distance of the airbrush. Eventually water will start to accumulate, so it would be ideal to keep the model at a slight angle so the water runs down to one point and can be collected with a tissue paper. If a lot of whitewash has been removed, this can be re-applied by brush, left to dry for a few minutes and the airbrush process repeated.

WEATHERING

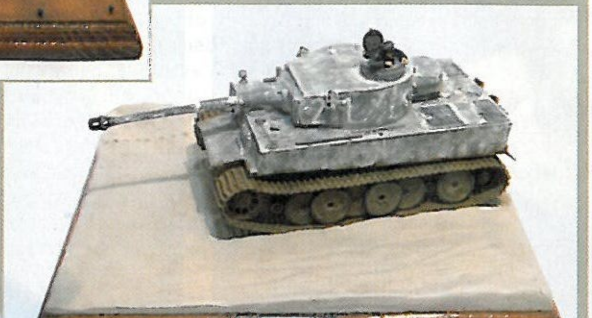
Satisfied with the whitewash result, I was however left with a stark, bright whitewash, which did not seem authentic at all in this scale. To tone down the white, I applied a wash consisting of Raw Umber and a small amount of White oil paint diluted in white spirit. Chippings were added using Vallejo USA Olive Drab 91 and rain streaks were applied with a pointed brush using very diluted Payne's Grey oil paint. More rain and dust streaks were applied with pastel pencils using sepia and burnt umber. What I did was to mark a vertical line with the pastel pencil and with a flat brush use a downward motion to fade the pastel onto the surface. Although I can describe the weathering process in only a few words, it really takes hours of fiddling, correcting, re-applying, adjusting and placing tones and shades where needed. In my opinion, it is really worth investing time and concentration during the painting and weathering process because this is where the model comes to life! ▶



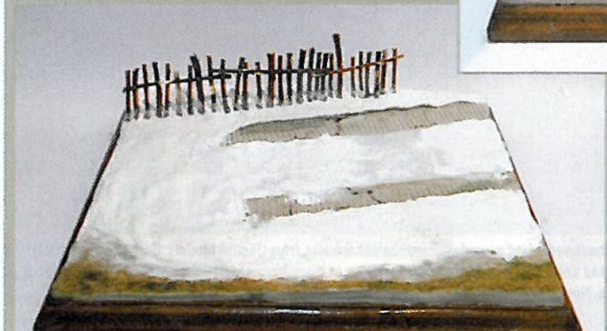
The Commander and wounded crewman are in the process of being detail painted. For the flesh areas, oil paints have been used and for the black uniforms, Andrea Acrylics Black has been used as it offers a very flat finish, perfect for replicating the lusterless cloth of the uniforms.



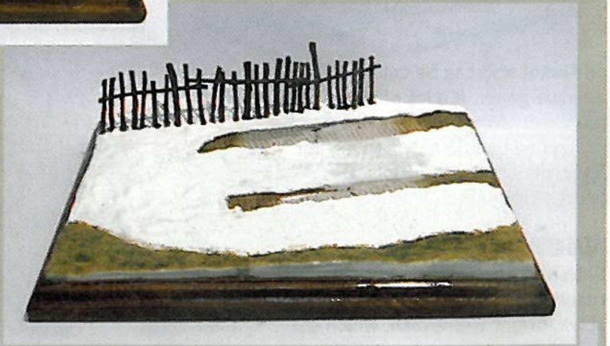
Once an appropriate base had been picked small tacks have been hammered into the top. These will act as a key for the air-dry clay to grip onto.



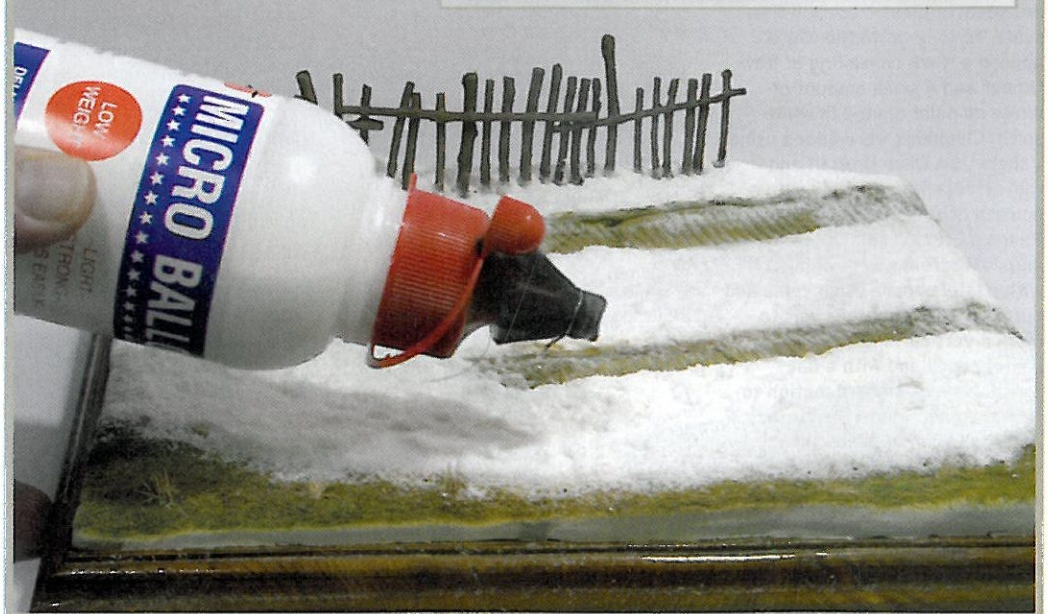
Before the clay had time to harden the vinyl tracks from the kit were pressed into the clay to create the track marks to the edge of the base before carefully doing the same with the Tiger itself.



With the tracks complete the next stage was to add plater to bulk out the areas to be covered in snow. Static grass was also stuck along the front edge with PVA Glue .



The next step was to airbrush the grasses area in a khaki colour as well as brush painting the wooden fence.



To represent the snow the author used Deluxe Materials Micro Balloons. To do this the areas to be covered with the 'snow' were first coated with PVA glue before sprinkling the Micro Balloons onto the PVA.

FIGURES

The infantry wearing overcoats are from Dragon, set 6190. They received Hornets heads and Andrea equipment. I really like these figures and especially the way the coat tails have been moulded as separate parts. The duo with a wounded leg are from Jaguar, the pointing panzer dude is from Dragon set 6347, but he received a new head from Hornet, a new left arm and some major surgery to the legs. The commander is also made from different parts with the main being from Jaguar. All the figures were painted using Vallejo acrylics and oil paints for the flesh tones. One special note on the panzer uniforms is that, I used black acrylic paint from Andrea acrylics Black NAC 02 which has more of a matt finish when compared to that of Vallejo paints.

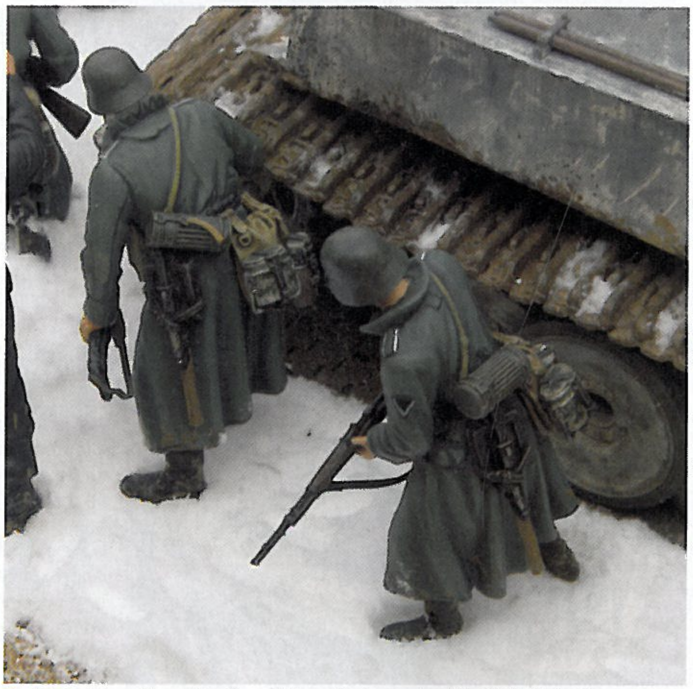
TERRAIN & SNOW

With the wood base cut to the desired measurements, I hammered tacks onto the surface for the air-dry clay to grip onto, I then pressed a vinyl track into the clay to simulate the track marks. Plaster was added to raise

the snow area slightly and then I sprinkled static grass onto a white glue foundation, on the areas without snow. I later airbrushed the grass with a khaki colour. It was my first time attempting a snow diorama and I decided to use Micro Balloons BD-15 from Deluxe Materials. I covered the bottle nozzle with a plastic mesh and by tapping gently on the bottle the micro balloons were sprinkled evenly over the surface. I only applied white glue for the base and left the micro balloons to settle without applying further adhesives.

CONCLUSION

Well, another diorama ready for my showcase and another diorama that I enjoyed doing. The Tiger was a joy to build, hassle free, easy to put together and in a very short time as well. I prefer building compact dioramas using one main vehicle as the centre of attraction and adding figures brings the diorama to life. I believe that including many figures even on a small diorama will make it look more interesting and busy. Off to my next project now which will be a desert scene and is already underway! ■


The infantry figures all came from Dragon's Frozen Battleground set (No. 6190). The heads were replaced with Hornet items and their equipment from Andrea Miniatures.

Modelspec

Dragon Tiger I Initial Type **Kit No.6252**

Sets used

Aber Grilles for Sd.Kfz. 181 Tiger I (35G18)
Dragon 6190 Frozen Battleground
Jaguar Wounded Panzer Crew 63001

Paints used

Tiger:
Vallejo Air Dark Grey Blue 54 / German Grey 52
Figures:
Coat - Vallejo Acrylic German Field Grey 830/German Uniform 920/Yellow Green 954
Panzer Uniform - Andrea Acrylic NAC02/Vallejo Acrylic Medium Flesh 860

References

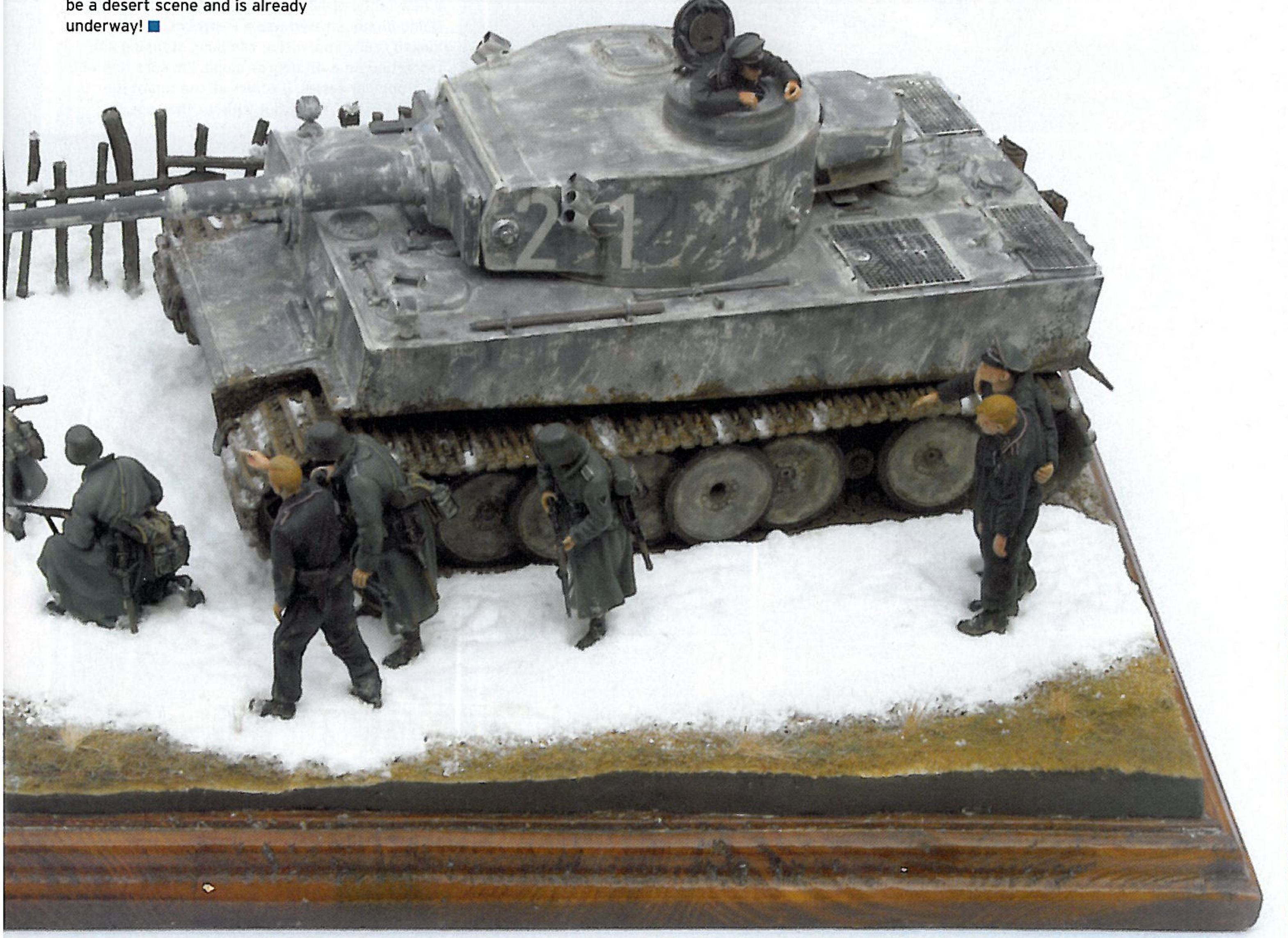
Tigers In Combat by Wolfgang Schneider
ISBN 0921991215
German Army Uniforms of WWII
Wade Krawczyk ISBN 1 85915 052 7

☑ Excellent kit all the way!
☒ No photo etch engine screens supplied.

Available from

All good model shops Worldwide.
Deluxe Materials Micro Balloons BD-15 - Historex Agents

Rating ●●●●●●●●●◐



TOY FAIR 2008

Wow, I can't believe this is my third trip to the prestigious Nuremberg Toy Fair as the Editor of MMI. We flew from Stansted courtesy of Air Berlin, on an Airbus A320. (note to self must have more airliners in the magazine, just kidding!).

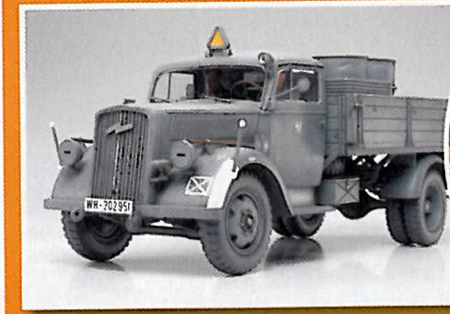
I loved the digital moving map displayed on the overhead TV monitors, which showed the progress of the aircraft. It reminded me of the many hours sat on the flight deck of the C130J's I used to work on, when the only in-flight entertainment available to watch was the little symbol of the Hercules on the Digi-map making its way ever so slowly across the map; so slowly you would swear it wasn't moving at all....

The big difference with this plane is that it travels nearly twice as fast, so it actually felt like we were getting somewhere and in just over an hour we had landed at Nuremberg and were all raring to get to the show the next morning. The Show is absolutely vast, covering some 12 huge exhibition halls, some even have two floors. Approximately one and a half halls were dedicated to modelling and radio controlled planes, cars and boats. I could write loads on the various rumours of what may be on the drawing boards next, but I thought it would be better to show you what was actually on display from the many model manufacturers, both large and small. So here's what we can expect to see on the shelves of the model shops over the coming months.

This year's highlights included the release of a new range of 1:35 scale radio controlled tanks. Being demonstrated was a Panther G which looked really impressive climbing, stopping and restarting on a 45 degree slope. I'm sure this will be a popular series, it offers all the fun of the larger 1:16 R/C tanks but without the cost. ■

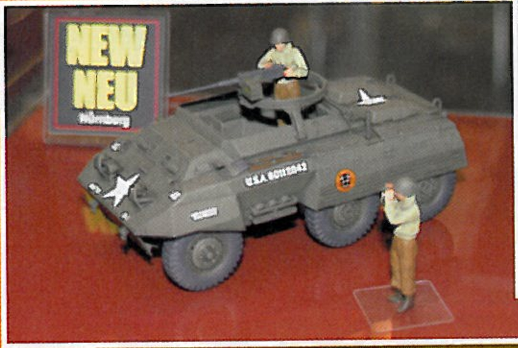
Frankenhalle

TAMIYA

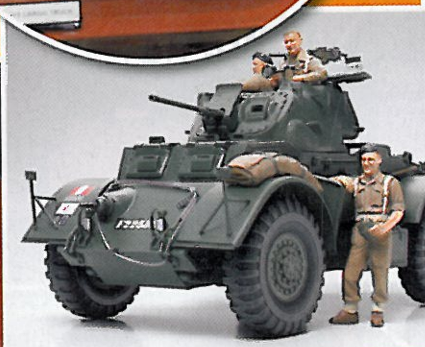


Tamiya's Opel Blitz looked very nice in the flesh and does have the edge over the venerable Italeri version.

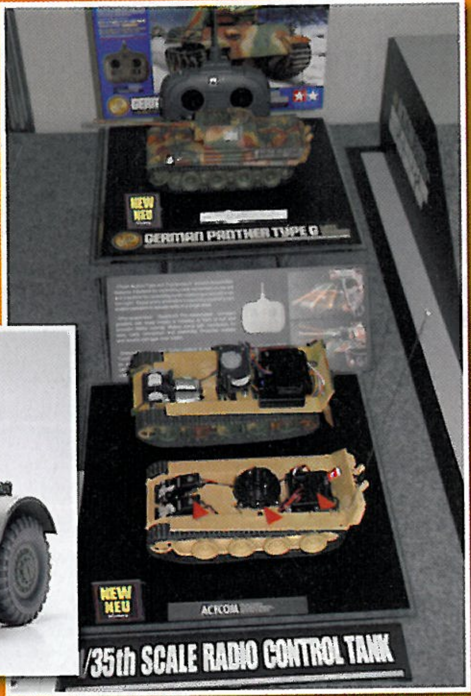
CARGO TRUCK
NEW
NEU



To compliment the M8 Light Armoured Car Tamiya have now announced the M20 Utility Armoured Car in 1:48.



A collaboration between Italeri and Tamiya has produced this most welcome Staghound with crew.


NEW
NEU
GERMAN PANTHER TYPE G
NEW
NEU
1/35th SCALE RADIO CONTROL TANK

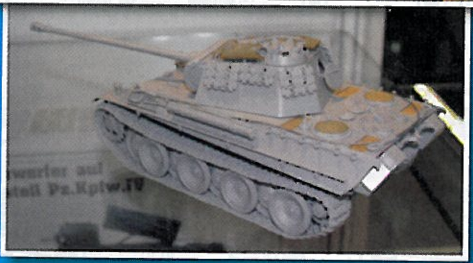
Tamiya's all new 1:35 R/C tanks looked great on the move and should prove the perfect introduction to this aspect of modelling without the cost associated with their bigger cousins.

DRAGON

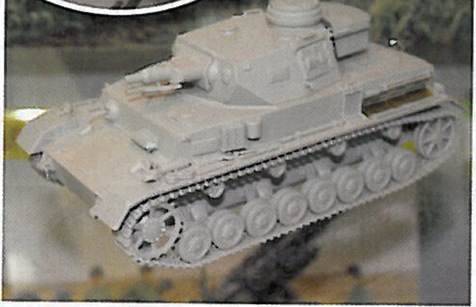
U.S. 10th MOUNTAIN DIVISION ITALY 1945

The latest G2 figures will be a real treat for Allied fans, with this set of the U.S. 10th Mountain Division (Italy 1945) figures.

pfw.IV Ausf.F1(F)



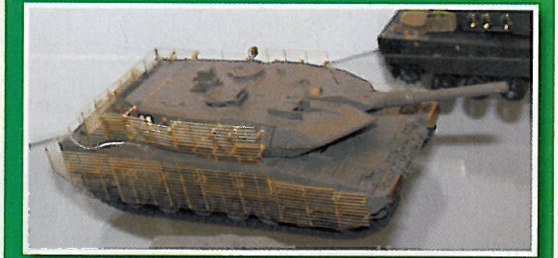
Dragon's Panther G, Italian campaign, fitted with the extra turret roof armour looked great.



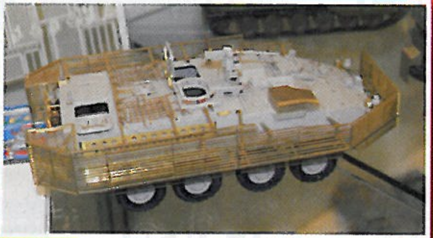
The latest Panzer IV from Dragon is this stunning F1(F).

Dragon are starting to offer their excellent figure sets in 1:72 starting with these German tank riders.

EDUARD

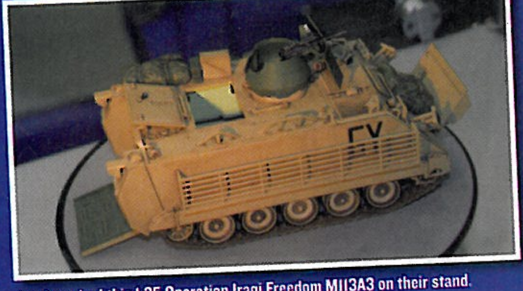


If you love working with etched brass? Why don't you have a go at Eduard's amazing Leopard 2A5 'slat' armour set.



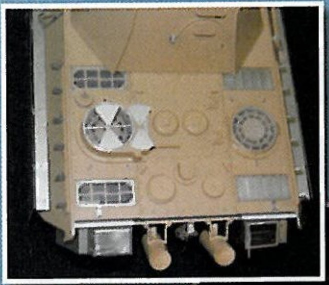
Once you have finished the Leopard, why not try the set for the Trumpeter Stryker?

ACADEMY

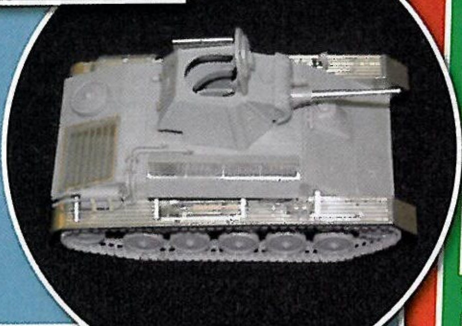


Academy had this 1:35 Operation Iraqi Freedom M113A3 on their stand.

ABER



Tamiya's R/C 1:16 Panther G looked amazing fully kitted up with all of the Aber sets.



MiniArt's T-70 really looks the business with Aber's general detailing set.

Tamiya's excellent quarter scale Cromwell gets the full treatment, including deep wading and fender sets.

Comprehensive sets for both Tamiya's 1:48 and gigantic 1:16 Panther Gs.

Hot on the tails of the release of Tamiya's JS-2 we have Aber's exquisite detailing and fender set.

CMK

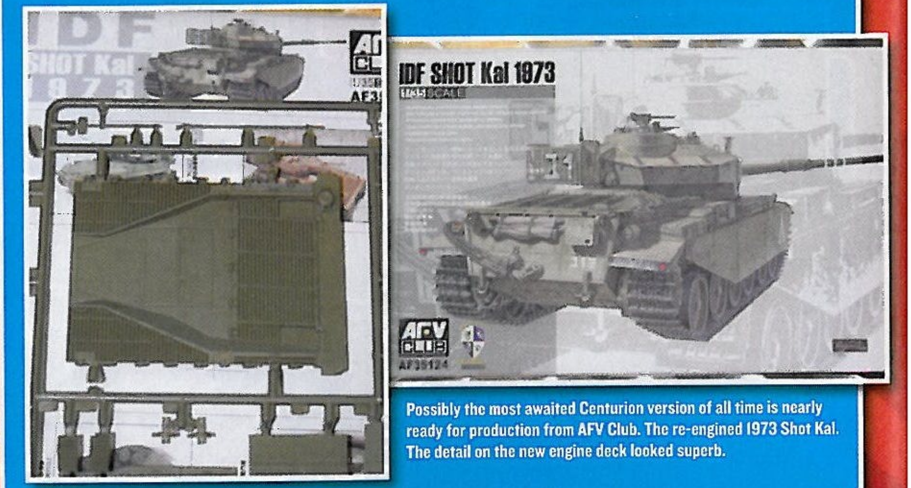
GMC 353 Airfield Fuel Truck
GMC 353 Cargo Truck

CMK had some very nice conversion sets for both Tamiya's 1:48 and 1:35 GMC truck.

The GMC has so much potential for conversion and thanks to CMK plenty are becoming available, such as this tanker.

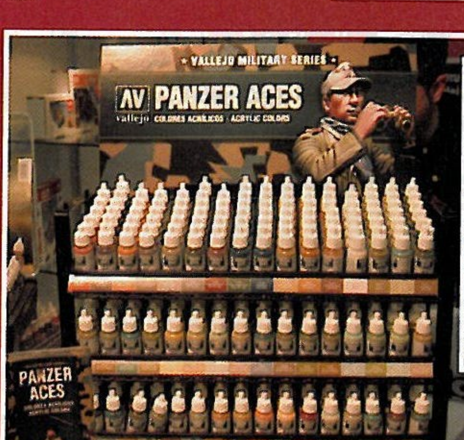
This very nice cargo body conversion for the 1:48 Steyr 1500A/01 was also on display.

AFV CLUB

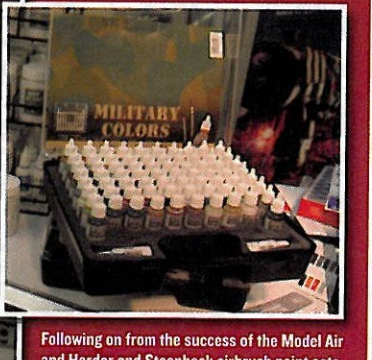

IDF SHOT Kal 1973
1:35 SCALE
AFV CLUB
AF35124

Possibly the most awaited Centurion version of all time is nearly ready for production from AFV Club. The re-engined 1973 Shot Kal. The detail on the new engine deck looked superb.

VALLEJO

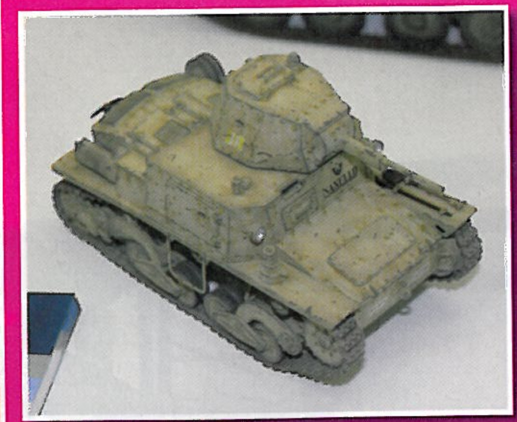

VALLEJO MILITARY SERIES
AV PANZER ACES
vallejo COLORES ACRÍLICOS ACRYLIC COLORS
PANZER ACES

The nice people at Vallejo had on display, their whole range of excellent Panzer Aces acrylic paints the Editor is so keen on.


MILITARY COLORS

Following on from the success of the Model Air and Harder and Steenbeck airbrush paint sets, Vallejo have now released a Military Colors set in their Model Color range.

ITALERI



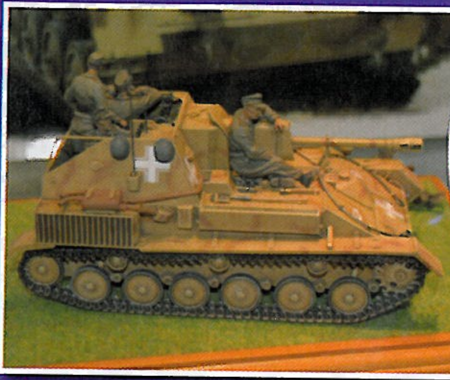
Italeri had their all new Carro Armato L6 Tank, this new kit will include Italeri's very useful Photographic reference manual as per the 1:48 RAF Chinook.

REVELL

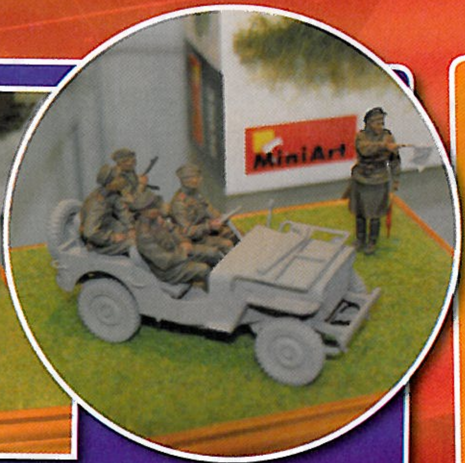
LKW gl leicht WOLF

The Revell stand featured a nice selection of modern Bundeswehr wheeled and tracked vehicles.

MINI ART

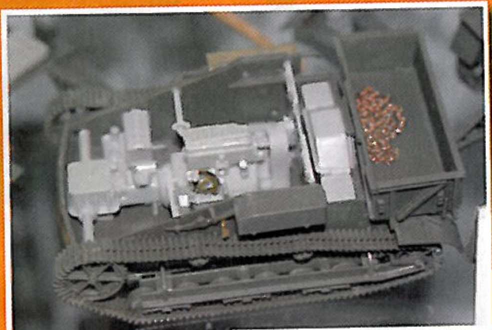


MiniArt keep going from strength to strength, with some great vehicles in their range such as this captured SU-76 and crew.



To fill a Jeep MiniArt have produced a US and Russian crew figure set.

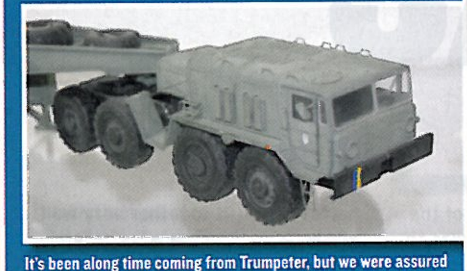
AZIMUT



Azimut were displaying this lovely little interior for the diminutive Tamiya Renault UE.

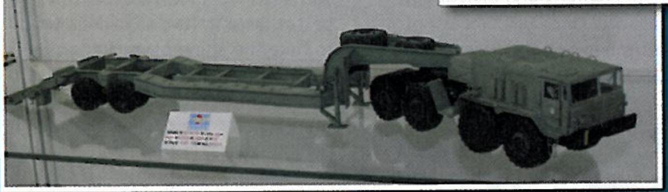
AZIMUT 1/35
RENAULT UE
INTERIOR SET
35373

TRUMPETER



It's been along time coming from Trumpeter, but we were assured it will be on the shelves soon!

1:35
COMING SOON !
Always Work For Your Satisfaction



The MAZ 537 Tank Transporter looked mightily impressive in 1:35.

Tamiya Model Magazine's Editor Marcus Nicholls is captured by the camera photographing the latest Aber etched brass sets. Note the essentials (beer and nibbles) to keep his energy levels up during this arduous and exhausting task!

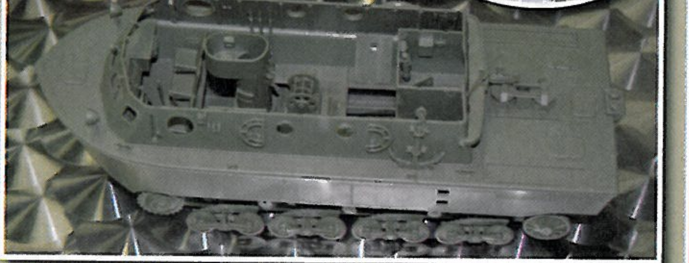
BRONCO

Land-Wasser-Schlepper (Middle Production)
BRONCO
B35015

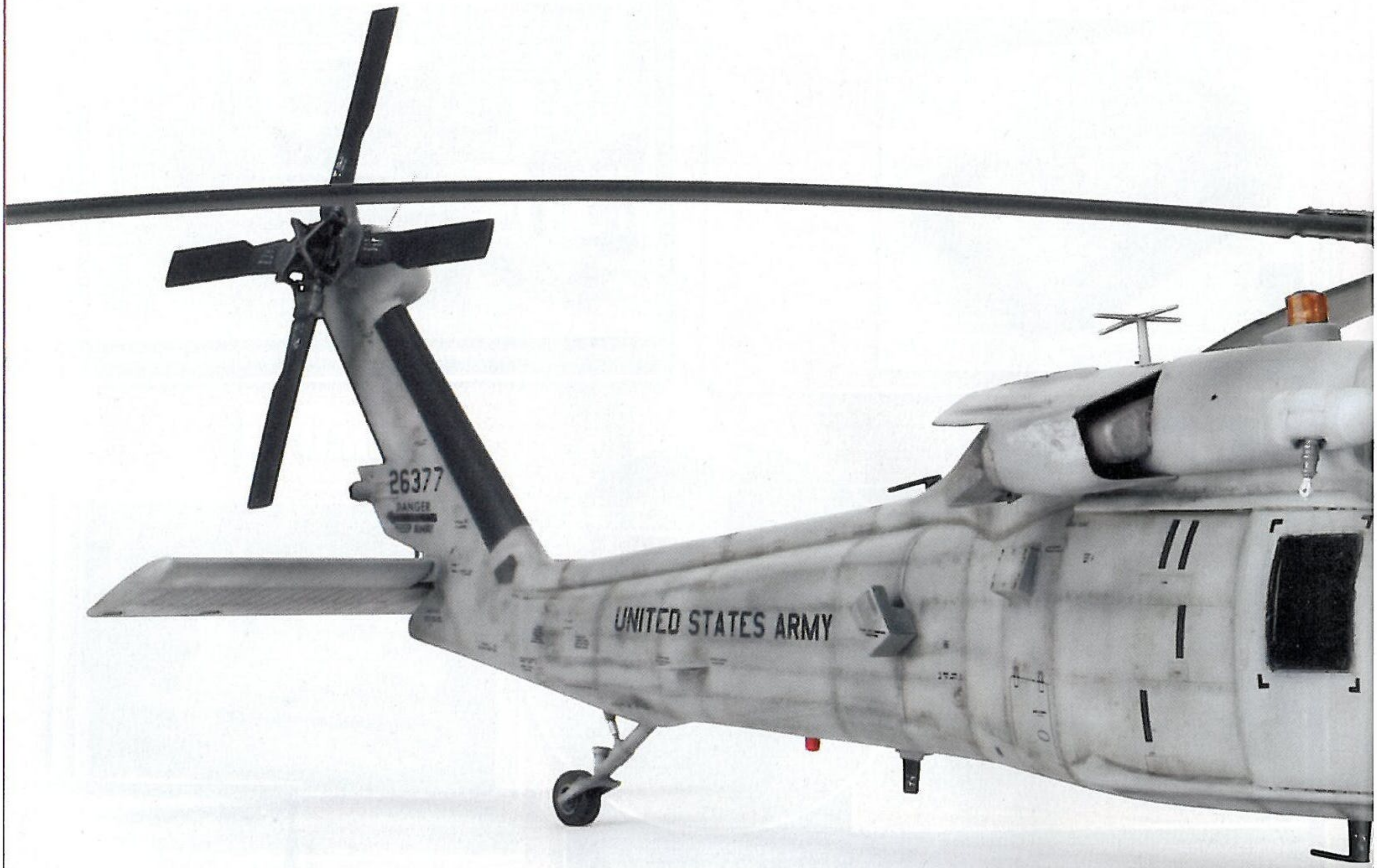
Bronco's new Land Wasser Schlepper certainly looked impressive in injection plastic

I'm sure Rhodes Williams, who built the MiniArt version in issue 17 will be ecstatic with the release of this one?

BRONCO MODELS



The Bronco version will come with a comprehensive interior, as can be seen here.



THE "GECKO"

Ian Ruscoe has fun building Italeri's quarter scale MH-60K Special Ops Blackhawk.

I previewed this kit in an earlier edition of MMI and on initial examination of the this kit thought it looked pretty good, with decent detail throughout, I reckoned it would build into a nice model of the Special Ops Blackhawk. The decal options give you two schemes, one in overall olive drab and the other in a two tone ghost grey scheme, it was this latter scheme I chose, as it looked a bit different than the standard Helo Drab most Blackhawks are painted in. However upon checking references at www.airliners.net the only ghost grey machines I could find were in fact painted in a single tone of grey, and not two tone as suggested in the instructions.

My brief from the Editor was to build the kit from the box and not get carried away with extra detailing, for the main I didn't stray, although I was tempted with some of the minor, yet niggling problems I encountered along the way.

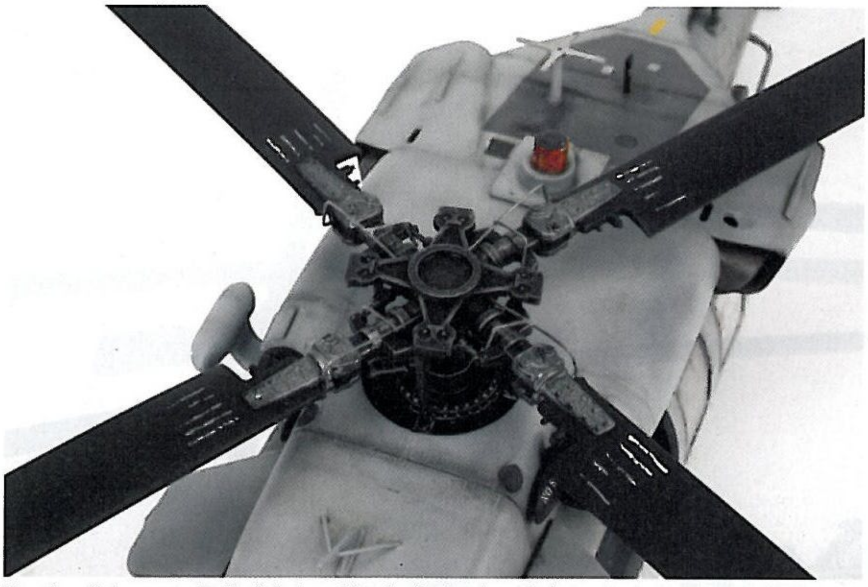
GETTING STARTED

Assembly starts with the cockpit and cabin, the parts fit on the whole was OK, but a few items needed fine tuning. The main omission in the kit is the large internal fuel tank, positioned across the rear bulkhead of the cabin. This isn't provided by Italeri so you'll have to build it yourself, I didn't because of my brief. After test fitting the cockpit and cabin seats I put them to one side for painting after I had tackled the rest of the interior painting. The insides of the fuselage, cabin/cockpit floor were painted in Dark Ghost Grey, followed by some post fading in a lighter mix of the base colour. The next step was to detail paint all of the fixtures and fittings, such as seat harnesses, control columns and instrument panels etc. Once dry, a wash of Raw Umber oil paint was applied to help accentuate the detail, followed by a light dry-brushing (I know this is a little out of fashion but in some cases it's still a viable way of highlighting detail on parts). After painting and weathering the cockpit/cabin assembly and the insides of the fuselage halves, these parts were all joined together. It was at this point that I discovered that the cockpit/cabin floor part is slightly too short and over 4mm too narrow, the same can also be said for the interior roof! As if that wasn't bad enough the fuselage halves didn't fit together very well either. It's nothing any modeller couldn't put right with a little filler and or plastic card but in this day and age I would have expected better from Italeri, as it does tend to take the shine off building the kit. After sorting these problems out, assembly continued with the fitting of the cockpit glazing, doors, aerials, in-flight refuelling probe, transmission and exhaust housings. I found that there were also fit problems with these parts as well, in particular the cockpit glazing, which is one of the reasons I built the cockpit doors closed. I replaced the support arms on the refuelling probe and upper fuselage cable cutter as these looked a little over scale too me, these were made from thin plastic card and stretched sprue

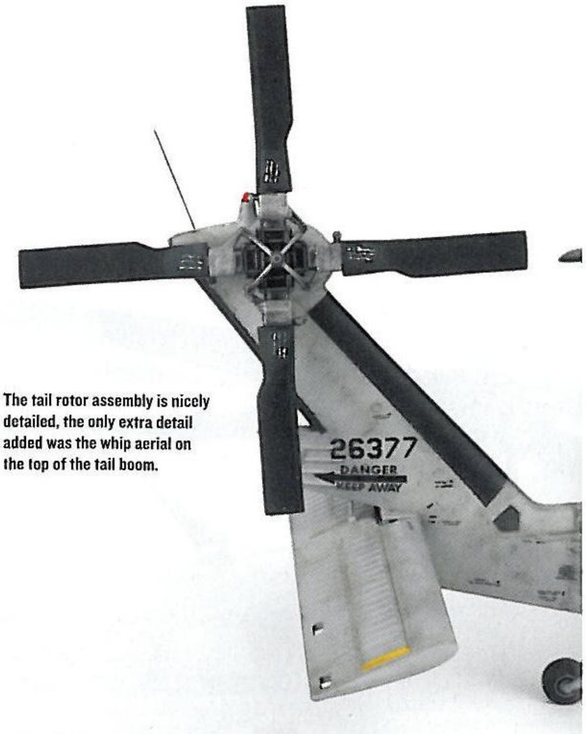
NO STEP
NO STEP

respectively. There is one glaring mistake in the instructions that tells you to fit the wrong nose mounted radar and FLIR housing, use the one shown on the box art and NOT the part shown in the instructions, the correct part is on the sprues but no mention is made in the instructions. One further point is the fitting of the cross shaped aerials on the upper fuselage, only the rear one is actually fitted to the real aircraft. The final stages of assembly concern the main and tail rotors and the ESSS (external stores support system), stub wings and external fuel tanks, these latter items weren't fitted to the model as I couldn't find any reference to them being fitted to this particular version of the Blackhawk. ▶

Even though the paint scheme may look scruffy. The author has actually kept it restrained compared to the state of the paint often seen on the real thing. This light grey scheme is particularly susceptible to extreme wear.



The author added some extra detailing in the form of fine wire. Note how the subtle dry-brushing has brought out the detail incorporated in the rotor head moulding.



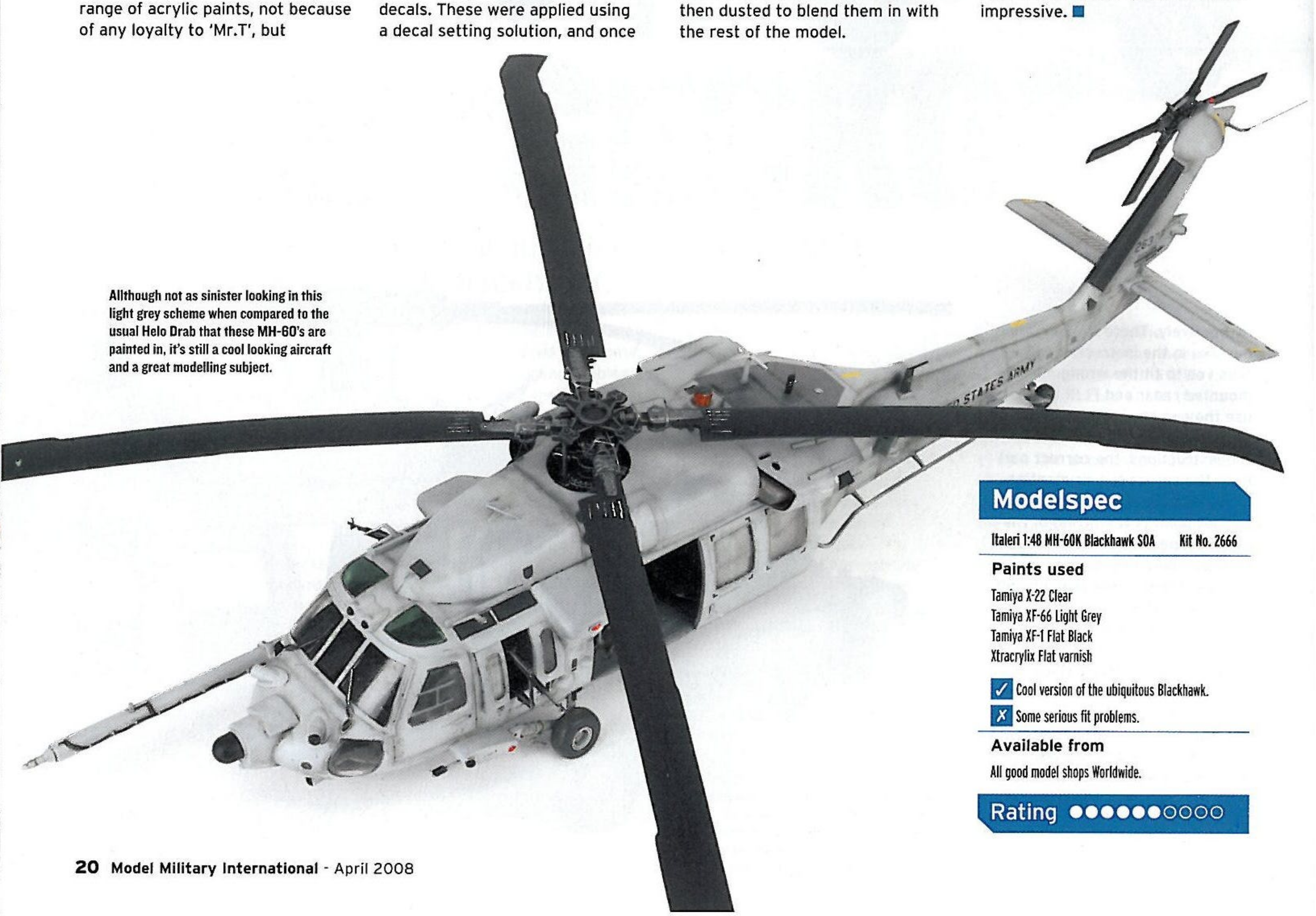
The tail rotor assembly is nicely detailed, the only extra detail added was the whip aerial on the top of the tail boom.

PAINTING

After masking the model I sprayed a coat of Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black over the parts to prime them, after removing a few blemishes the painting continued. As I mentioned earlier the kit instructions suggest a two tone grey scheme as one of the options but upon checking my references I found this to be incorrect, and so amended it by giving the model an overall coat of light ghost grey only. I tend to mix my own colours from the Tamiya range of acrylic paints, not because of any loyalty to 'Mr.T', but because they were healthier to use. I don't like spraying enamels for health reasons and the excellent Vallejo Air colours weren't available twenty years ago when I got used to mixing Tamiya paints. The colour I used was XF-66 Light Grey, this was post shaded over the parts followed by a lighter mix of the colour. After picking in any detail painting by hand, the model was coated in Tamiya X-22 Clear to seal the paint and provided a glossy surface for the decals. These were applied using a decal setting solution, and once dry the assemblies were matted down with a coat of Xtracrylix Flat varnish. The masking was removed before the weathering commenced, starting with pin washes of Raw Umber oil paint to the parts and finally artists pastel chalks. With the model almost finished, I ended up cracking and couldn't resist adding the missing cable detail on the main rotor hub in the form of thin wire, these were attached using superglue and painted to look like the actual cables, they were then dusted to blend them in with the rest of the model.

CONCLUSION

Initially I was looking forward to assembling the kit but the shine soon wore off because of the minor fit problems and instruction 'gaffs'. I'm not saying the kit is unbuildable, but just be aware of the problems, the potential is there to create a cracking model it's just that you've got to work a bit of magic with it. Even with an 'out of the box' build I'm personally pleased with the overall appearance of the 'gecko', it looks impressive. ■



Allthough not as sinister looking in this light grey scheme when compared to the usual Helo Drab that these MH-60's are painted in, it's still a cool looking aircraft and a great modelling subject.

Modelspec

Italeri 1:48 MH-60K Blackhawk SOA **Kit No. 2666**

Paints used

Tamiya X-22 Clear
Tamiya XF-66 Light Grey
Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black
Xtracrylix Flat varnish

✓ Cool version of the ubiquitous Blackhawk.
✗ Some serious fit problems.

Available from

All good model shops Worldwide.

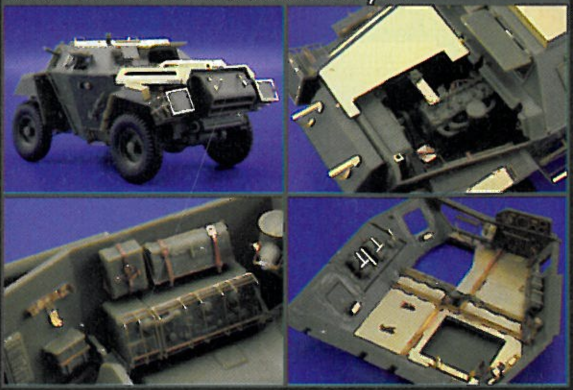
Rating ●●●●●●○○○○

eduard

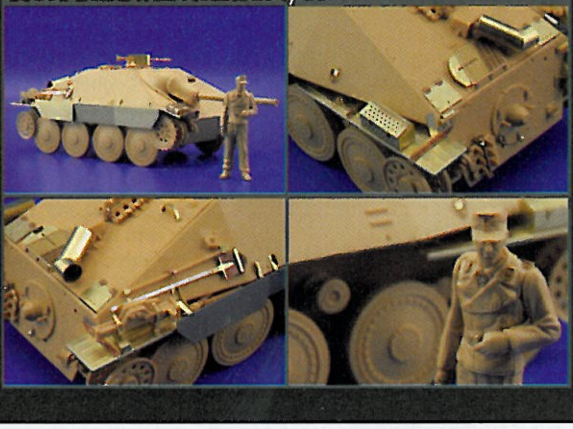
BEST BRASS AROUND

22127+22129 M-1126 Stryker ICV 1/72

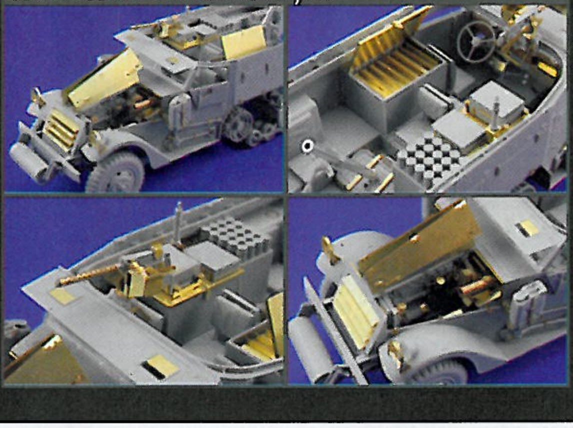
36007+36012 Humber Scout Car Mk.I 1/35



36016 Hetzer Mid. Production 1/35



35997+35999 M-4 Half Track 1/35



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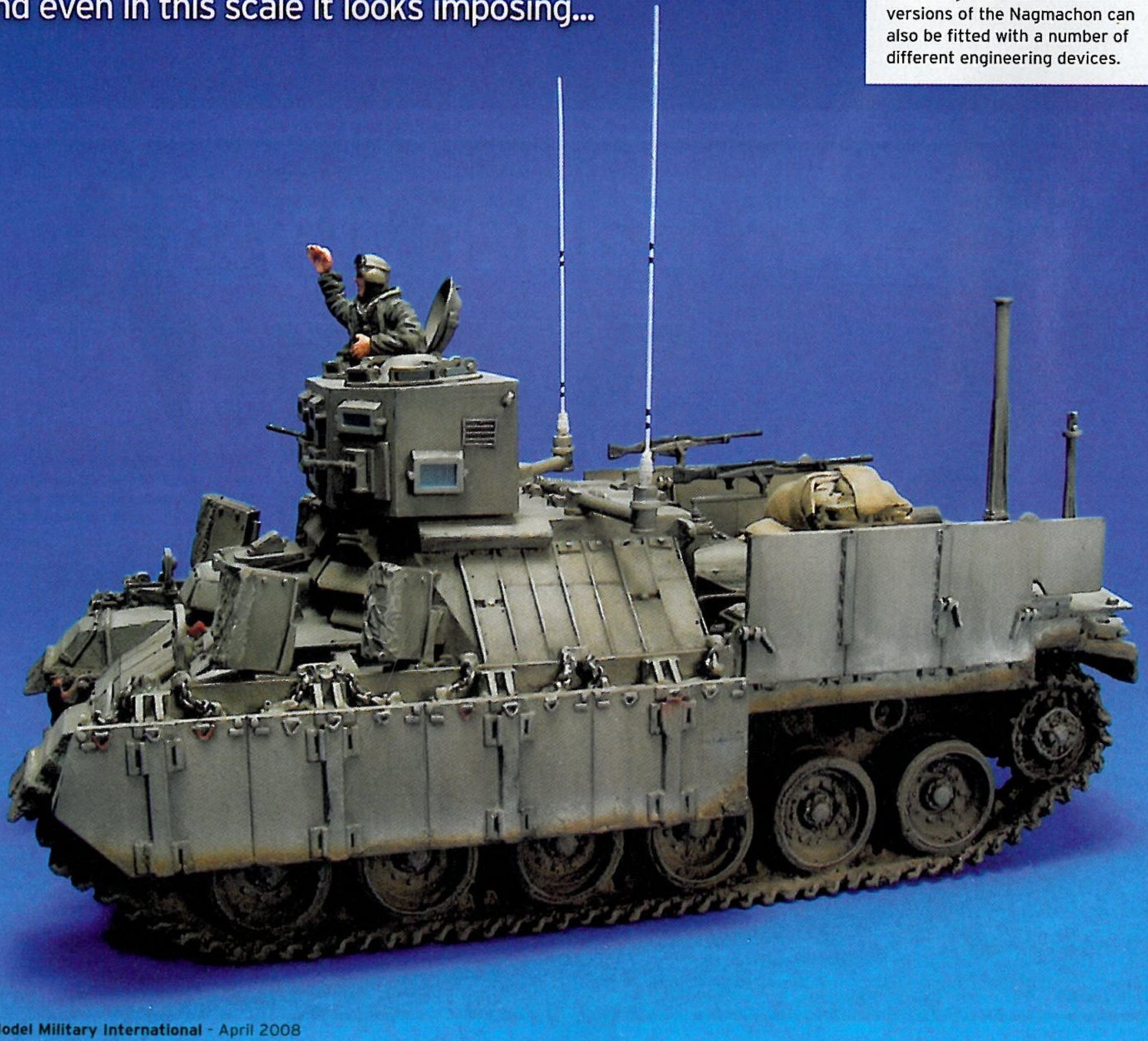
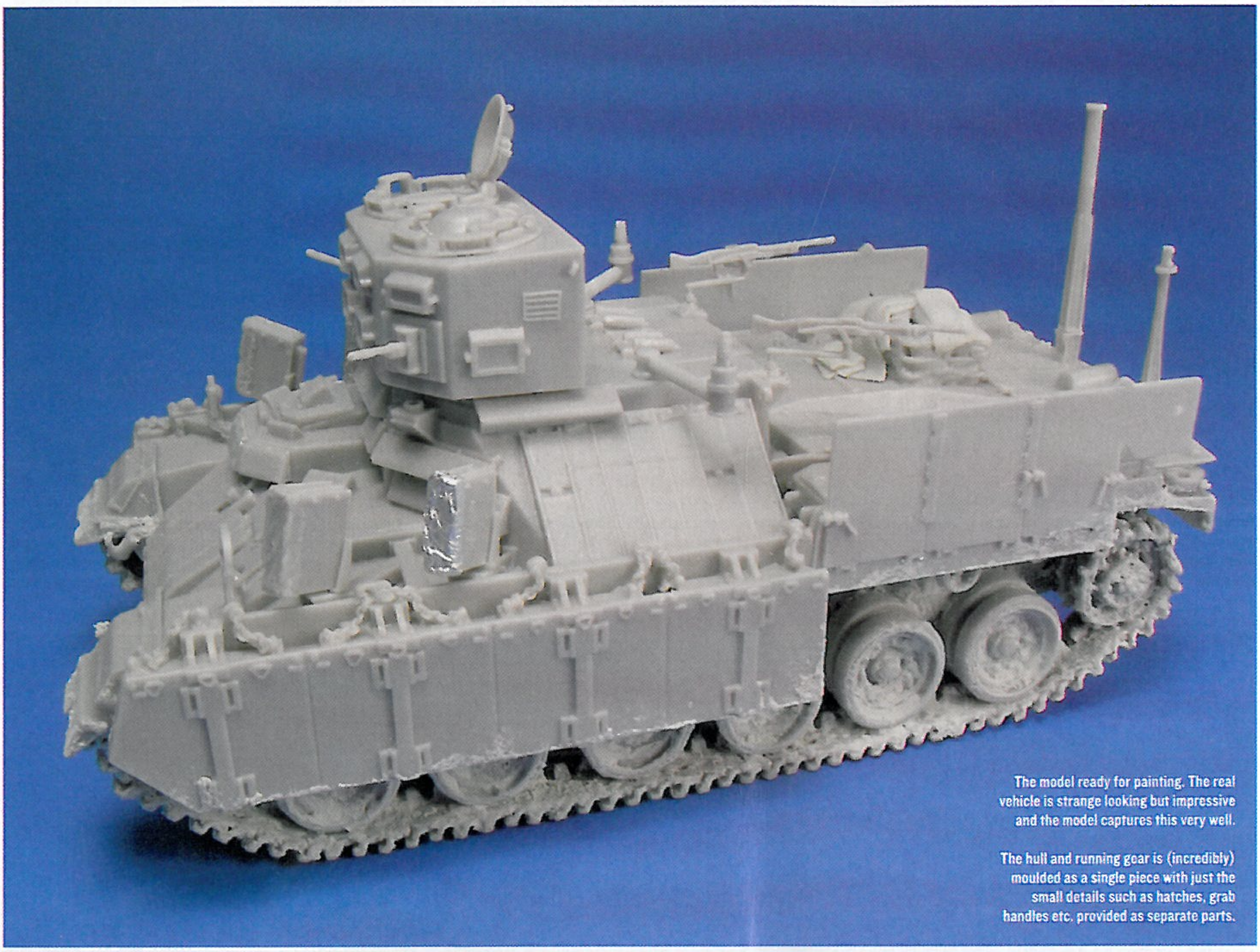
MINI MONSTER

Alex Clark builds the latest from Cromwell's Combat 72 range, the 'Mifletset'. And even in this scale it looks imposing...

The Israeli Nagmachon was developed as a counter-insurgency armoured personnel carrier and is based on the hull of the Centurion MBT. Noticeable features are the extremely thick slabs of side armour and an array of reactive armour blocks covering much of the frontal arc of the vehicle. Armament consists of a number of machine gun stations and four IS-10 grenade launcher boxes. Earlier versions of the vehicle featured three lightly armoured panels fitted atop the hull whereas later versions are fitted with a pillbox like structure (sometimes referred to as a 'Doghouse') that provides complete enclosure for the crew. This type of vehicle, also known as the "Mifleset" (Monster) is especially suited for low intensity urban conflict and as is often the case with Israeli armour, photos of the vehicle show more than one design for this structure. All versions of the Nagmachon can also be fitted with a number of different engineering devices.





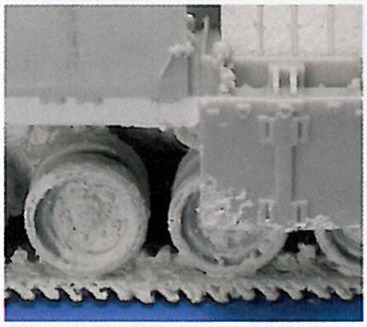
The model ready for painting. The real vehicle is strange looking but impressive and the model captures this very well.

The hull and running gear is (incredibly) moulded as a single piece with just the small details such as hatches, grab handles etc. provided as separate parts.

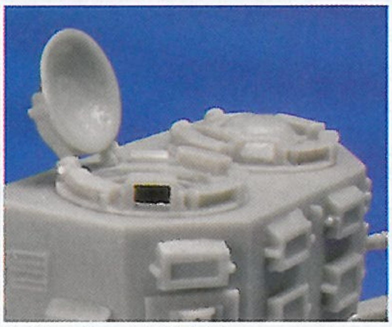
THE MODEL

The kit belongs to Cromwell's Combat 72 range and follows on from a previous release of the earlier style Nagmachon that lacks the doghouse. For those who aren't aware of this range, the models in it are all composed of just a handful of parts, but still retain a high degree of detail and accuracy. This particular kit has slightly more parts than the others in the range and this reflects the complex nature of the real vehicle. The main hull is a single piece casting with most of the separate pieces being the delicate smaller details. The moulding is exceptional, with some incredible undercuts on the single piece hull. The details are all sharp and well cast, with just a couple of small air bubbles present - these being easily filled with a little putty. There is also some flash but again this is minimal and considering the detail of the kit I was amazed there was so little. A nice touch is that all of the crew hatches are all moulded as separate parts which will make life much easier for those wishing to add crew figures. There are no markings included, although photos show very few (if any) marking on these vehicles anyway. The only real negative point is the lack of instructions, although a few reference photos will be enough to show where the small parts go.

Due to the low number of parts, the kit only took a couple of evenings to build. The most time consuming part involved removing the two large moulding plugs that are sensibly positioned along the underside of the lower track runs. I clipped the bulk of these off using an old pair of Tamiya side cutters and then sanded the remaining burrs down over a piece of A4 wet and dry paper. Compared to photos the model really does look the part and all the details are present. The only additions I made were the steel wire aerials, some extra stowage and aluminium foil covers for two of the four grenade launcher boxes (some of the grenades weren't fully moulded on these). The kit does feature some stowage within the rack on the engine deck but I decided to add a little extra using thinly rolled out Magic Sculpt putty. ▶

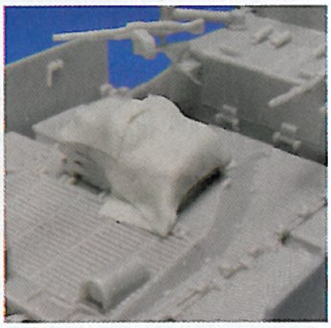


Having seen a number of photos showing Nagmachon covered in mud, I modelled this using Squadron Green putty stippled over the lower hull with an old brush.

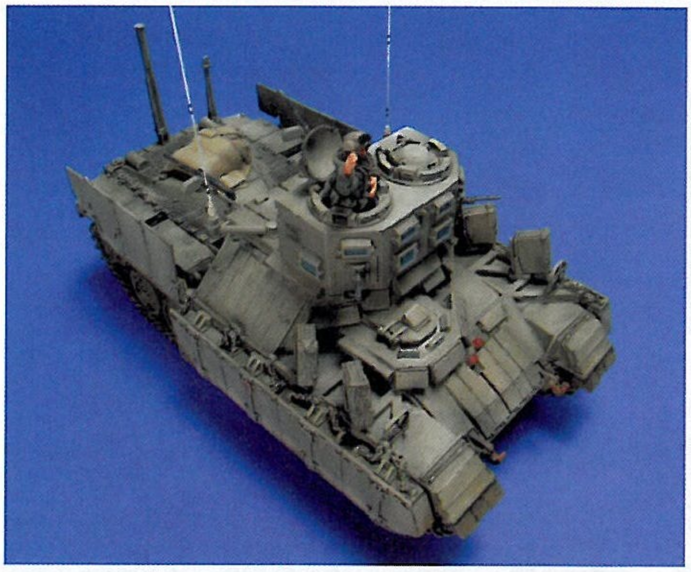


The kit provides most of the hatches as separate items, although I only left one of them open as I intended to add just a single crew figure.

The kit includes four sets of smoke grenade launcher boxes, with two of them moulded with a protective dust cover. The grenades visible in the other two were slightly mis-moulded so I made covers for these using household aluminium foil.

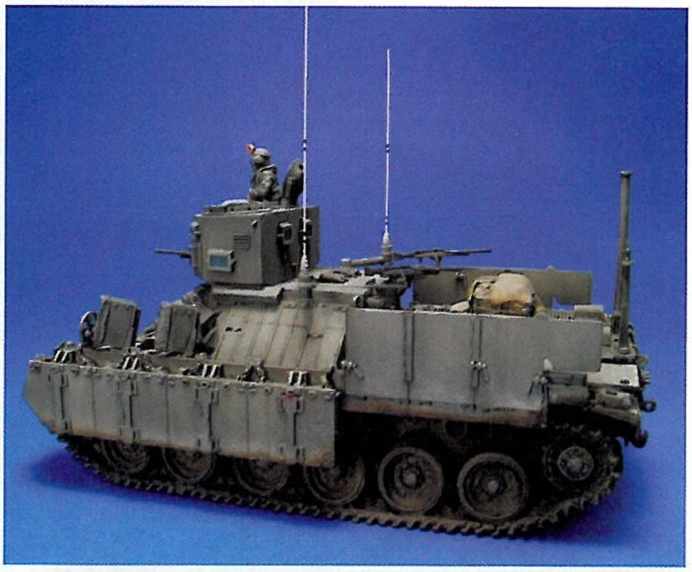


Although the stowage basket on the engine deck has some stowage moulded as part of it, I decided to add some additional tarpaulins made using rolled out pieces of Magic Sculpt putty.



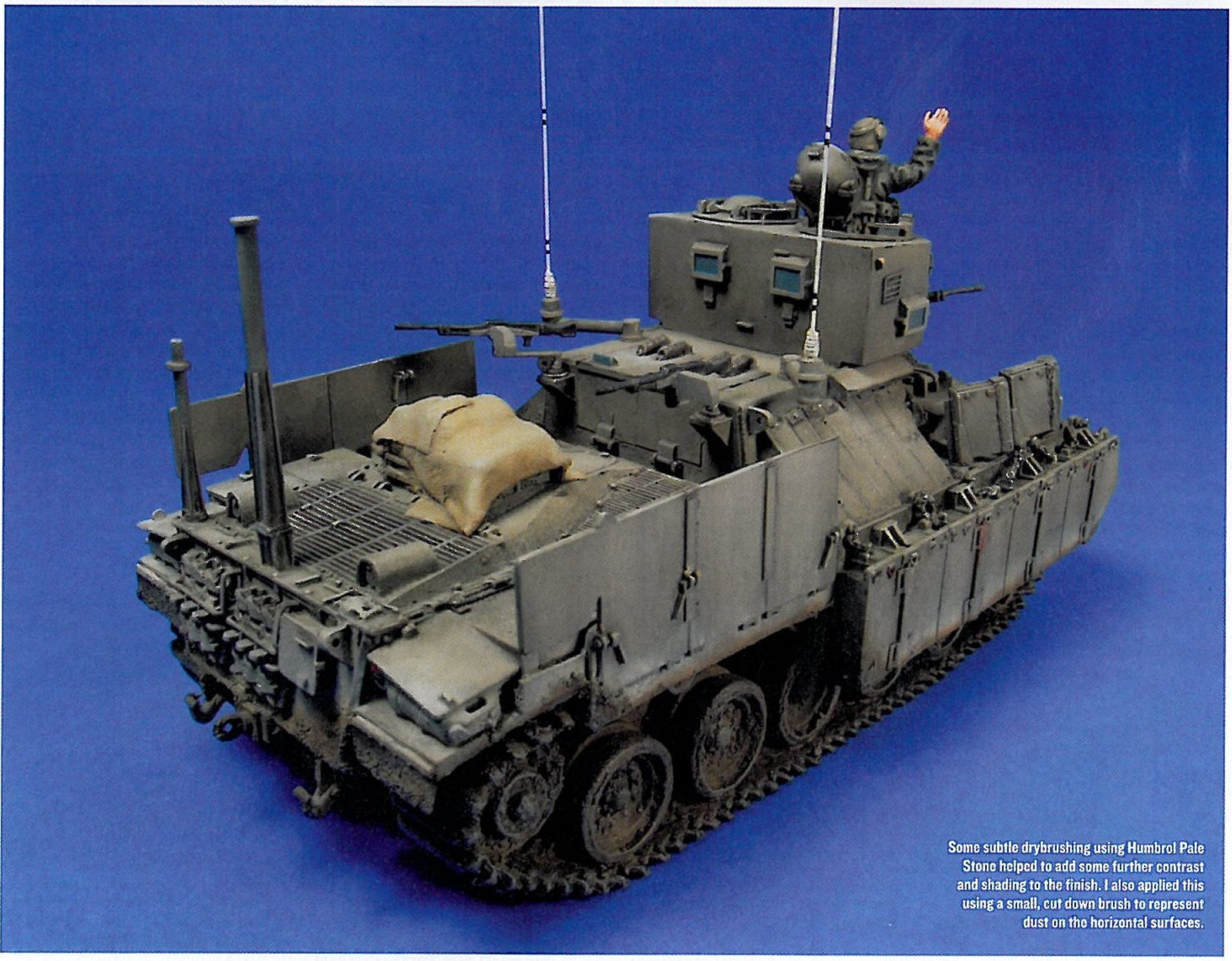
The whole model initially received an undercoat of Humbrol Black enamel (33) followed by the base sand grey using Lifecolor acrylic Israeli Sandgrey 1982 (UA 035). I applied this in a patchy fashion to give a weathered, subtly shaded effect.

I added some highlights on the upper surfaces of the model by mixing a little Lifecolor Israeli Sandgrey 61-73 (UA 020) with the darker base colour and applying this as a dilute mix through the airbrush. After fully dry, the model then received an overall wash of Humbrol Olive Drab (155).



The dusty and muddy areas were painted with Humbrol enamels - the light areas using Humbrol Pale Stone (121) and the darker, damp mud using Humbrol Dark Earth (29). This was followed by localised pin washes of Humbrol Olive Drab mixed with some black oil paint to give a nice shadow effect around the details.

"This particular kit has slightly more parts than the others in the range and this reflects the complex nature of the real vehicle"



Some subtle drybrushing using Humbrol Pale Stone helped to add some further contrast and shading to the finish. I also applied this using a small, cut down brush to represent dust on the horizontal surfaces.

PAINTING

Whilst working on this model I was sent an Iwata Eclipse airbrush to review so this provided the ideal opportunity to do this. Being a long term user of enamel paints, I also decided to try out some acrylic paints, specifically the Lifecolor brand as they include Israeli armour colours in their range and they were recommended as being very accurate.

I began painting by giving the complete model a coat of Humbrol Matt Black (33). This provides a good key for the acrylic base colours to adhere to and will act as the shadow colour for some pre-shading. I then airbrushed Lifecolor Israeli Sandgrey 1982 (UA 035) in a slightly patchy fashion to break up the monotony of the colour and to give a subtle pre-shaded effect. To add additional contrast I lightened this base colour with some Lifecolor Israeli Sandgrey 61-73 (UA 020) and lightly airbrushed this over the horizontal surfaces. At this point the model looked nicely shaded but the finish was very uniform and clean so I gave the model an overall wash of Humbrol Olive Drab (155) mixed with Humbrol thinners. Next I concentrated on painting the muddy areas by airbrushing Humbrol Pale Stone (121), a good colour for dried mud and dust, around the lower areas of the hull and running gear. I then airbrushed Humbrol Dark Earth (29) to overlap with this to represent areas of darker, damp mud. After the muddy areas had fully dried I applied a dark pin wash using Humbrol Olive Drab mixed with black oil paint. I concentrated this around the details and recessed parts of the model, including the muddy areas. I finished the weathering by lightly drybrushing Humbrol Pale Stone over the whole model. I also drybrushed this using a small cut-down brush to represent dusty areas, focussing mainly on the horizontal areas.

To finish the model I turned my attention to the remaining smaller details. The numerous windows fitted around the 'doghouse' are tinted with a bluish-green colour on the real vehicle. As the windows were moulded solid I just mixed up a blue-green colour using Humbrol enamels and painted these in with a small brush. I also painted the machine guns, lights and aerials. Many Israeli vehicle photos show some of the small fittings painted red, so using the photos as reference I reproduced this on the model. Finally I added the crew figure - he was actually borrowed from an Achzarit model I'd completed earlier and is from the Goffy Israeli tank crew set.

CONCLUSION

This kit is another great addition to the Combat 72 range and is a real treat for anyone interested in modern Israeli vehicles. The simplicity of the build doesn't compromise accuracy or detail and because of this the kit should appeal to both modellers and wargamers. ■

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to Gordon Brown at Cromwell Models for providing the kit for review.

Modelspec

Cromwell Models Combat 72 1:72 Mifleset

Materials

Goffy Models resin Israeli Tank Crew
Magic Sculpt Putty
Squadron Green Putty

Paints used

Lifecolor Israeli Sandgrey 1982 (UA 035)
Lifecolor Israeli Sandgrey 61-73 (UA 020)
Humbrol Matt Black (33)
Humbrol Matt Olive Drab (155)
Humbrol Matt Pale Stone (121)
Black oil paint

References

IDF Armoured Vehicles
Soeren Suenkler & Marsh Gelbart, Tankograd Publishing.
Israeli Weapons
www.israeli-weapons.com/weapons/vehicles/engineer_vehicles/nagmachon/Nagmachon.html
IDF Modelling
http://idfmodelling.free.fr/nagmachon.html

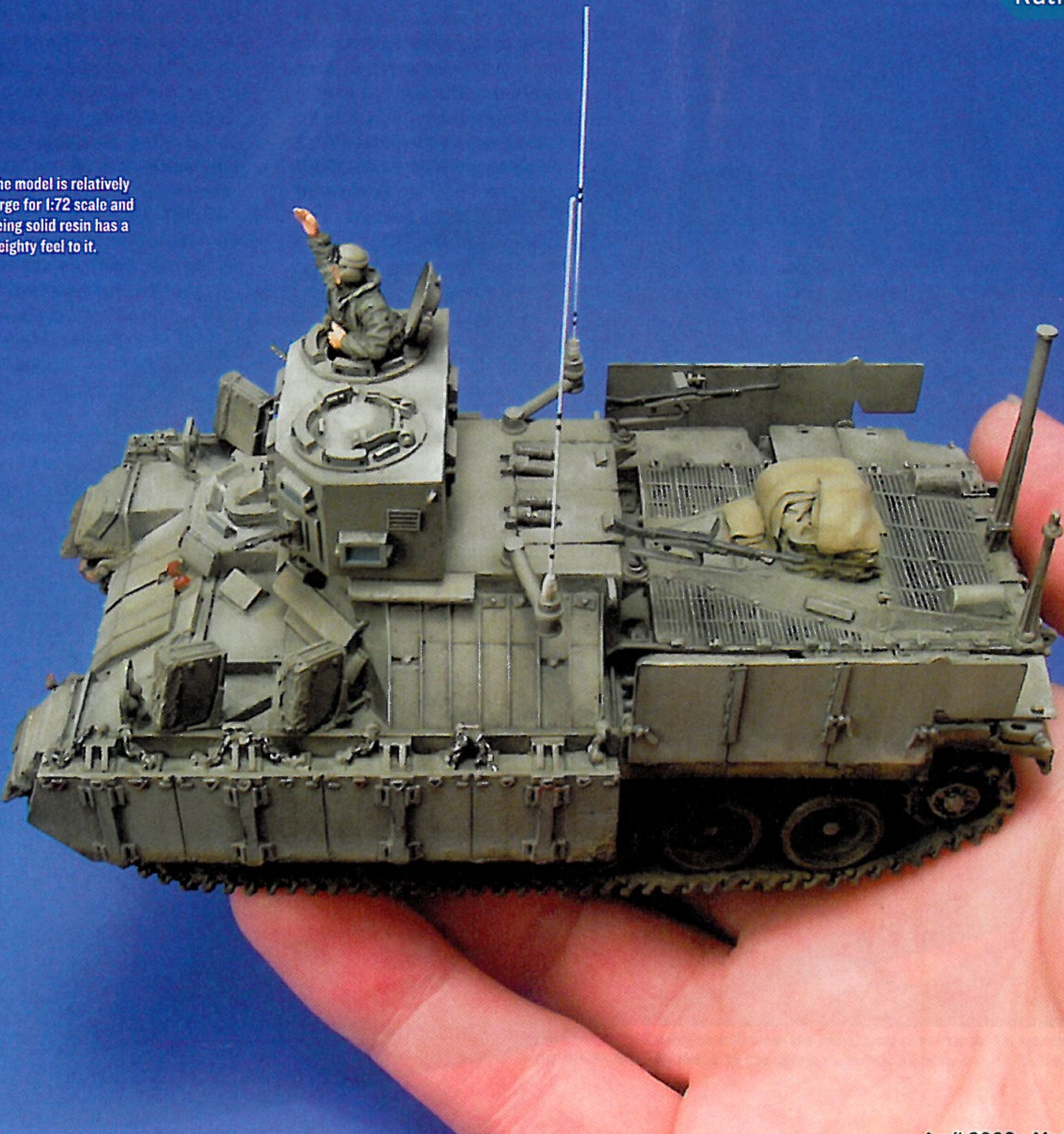
✓ Excellent detail, well cast and easy to assemble.

✗ No instructions included.

Available from

Cromwell Models
www.cromwellmodels.com

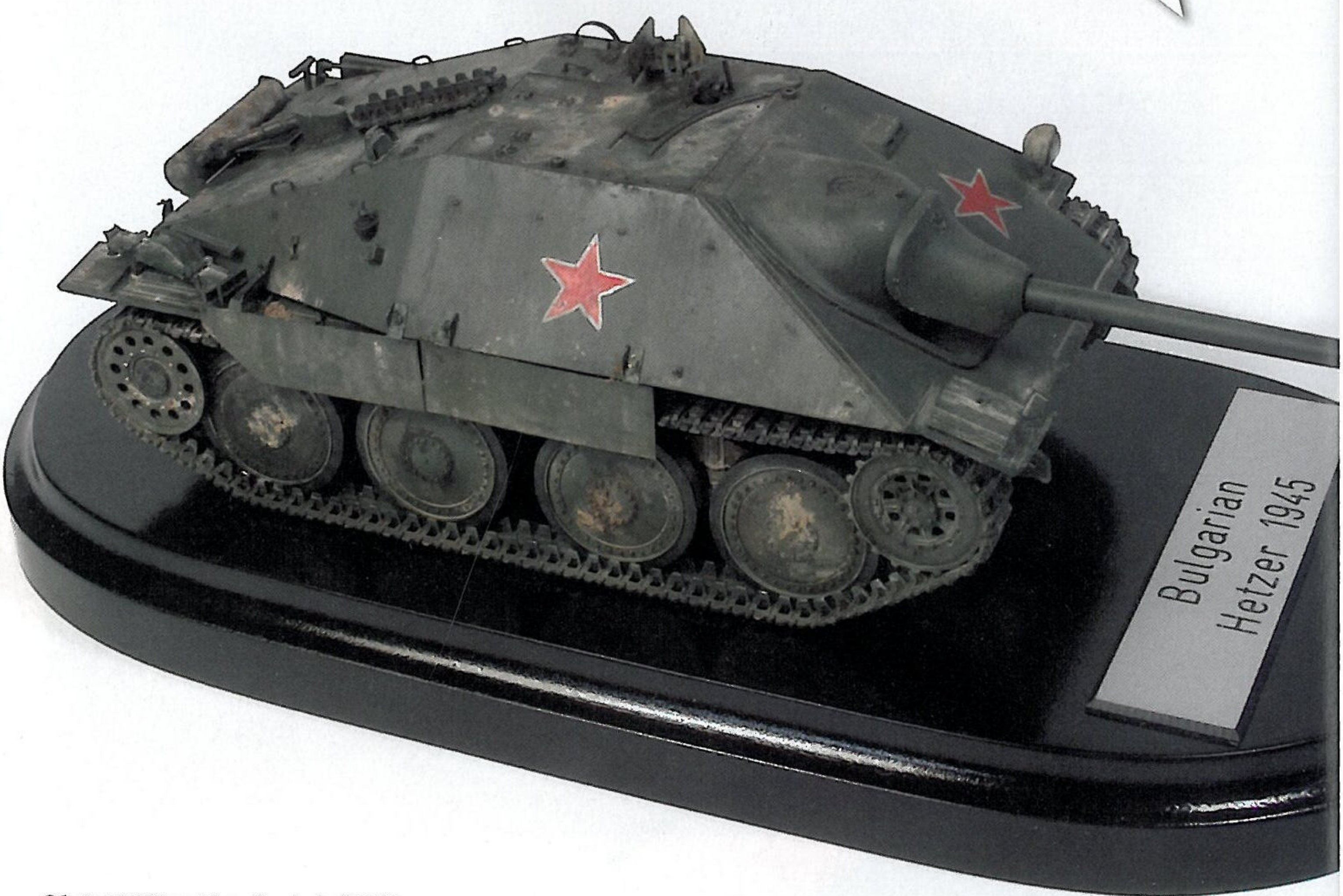
Rating ●●●●●●●●●◐



The model is relatively large for 1:72 scale and being solid resin has a weighty feel to it.

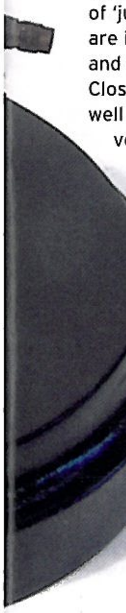
CZECH MATE

Jan Peters builds Tamiya's 'Tank Baiter' but paints it to fight it's former owners.



I've always liked the look of the Hetzer tank destroyer, its sleek lines and low silhouette make it look like a real hunter, like a cat on the prowl. Built on the proven 38(t) chassis it was a successful design, used right until the end of the war, and even after the war. Conceived as an easily mass produced tank destroyer in 1943, its production finally started in 1944. BMM and Skoda kept on improving on the design during production, and many changes took place, most of them to aid in faster production and lowering the cost of materials. Tamiya's model represents an early mid production vehicle, with 32 bolt road wheels, early sprockets and 12 hole idler wheels.

Now, even though I liked the Hetzer, I never got round to actually building one... until I saw a model built to represent a captured vehicle in Bulgarian service. The green Hetzer with big bright red stars grabbed me, and I instantly knew I wanted to build one. A search on the Internet turned up just one picture and a colour profile on http://rkkaww2.armchairgeneral.com, so information on this exotic subject is very scarce. Although the picture showed a later version of the Hetzer, I wanted to use the new Tamiya kit, as I was very curious about it. A search through the spares box turned up a Voyager etch set (PE 35009, which is intended for the DML early Hetzer) and a Jordi Rubio barrel with a threaded end. Although not ideal I decided to use both, as it would just be sitting in my spares box anyway...



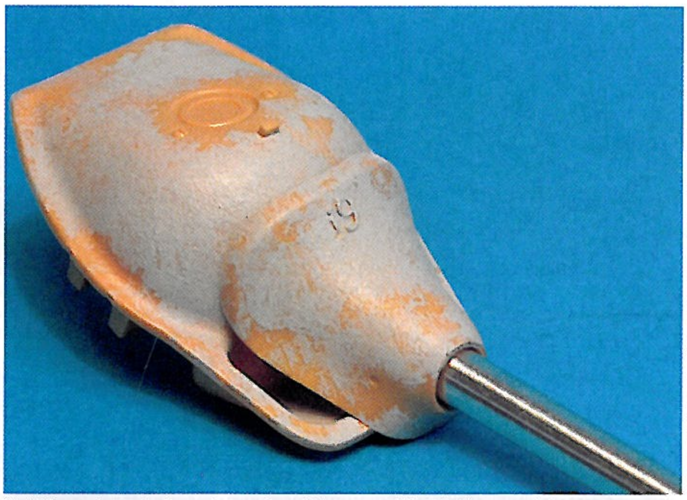
THE MODEL

I must admit that I was somewhat reserved about this kit after first opening the box. The kit consisted of 'just' five sprues, two of which are identical and hold the wheels and suspension components. Closer examination turned out a well thought out design, and some very nicely moulded details. Although some of the details are somewhat simplified, all in all it is very good indeed! The parts are cleanly moulded in dark yellow plastic, without flash, and you get a choice of both 'link and length' and rubber band type tracks. The only thing really missing from this kit is a fret of photo etched parts, for the intake grilles and Schürzen armour plates. The 'link and length' tracks have some small ejector pin marks to be dealt with, but nothing serious, and they are very well done with moulded in sag.

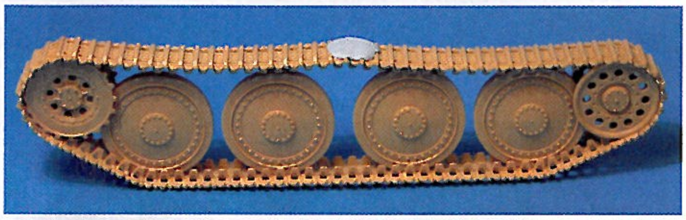
GETTING STARTED

Construction starts with the lower hull and suspension, and immediately it becomes clear this is a well engineered kit. Fit is excellent and the running gear is constructed in such a way it can be built up, and taken off the vehicle for ease of painting, if you wish to do so. Make sure you do not glue the return roller (part A11) in place, or you'll have a hard time taking the wheels and track subassembly off of the lower hull. You guessed it... I didn't and had to take extra care when taking it off and putting it back on during painting and weathering. The suspension is articulate by the way, so you could place the vehicle on rough terrain, although you wouldn't be able to use the 'link and length' tracks provided. An assembly jig is supplied to make sure all arms line up correctly, so that all wheels will touch the track.

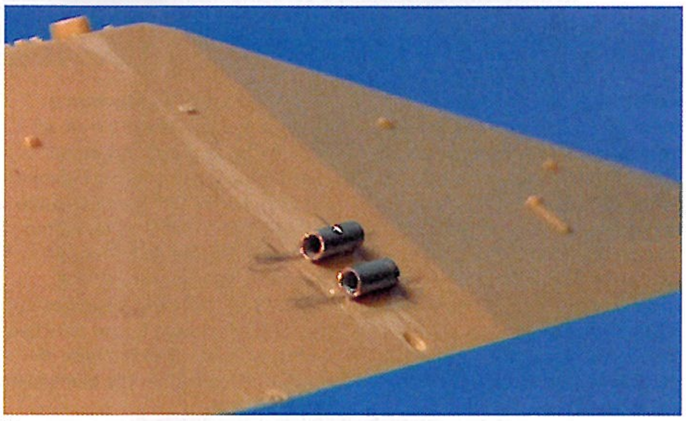
Up next is the upper hull. The first thing I did was to remove some of the moulded-on detail, such as the antenna tubes on the side of the hull, these parts are moulded solid on the kit. These were replaced by small brass tubes, so an antenna could be fitted later on. One front fender was removed, and the Notek light was left off, and changed for an old Sd.Kfz. 251 headlight. A electrical lead was made from thin wire, and the lens was taken from a PHS aftermarket set. Construction is very straightforward, and again fit of parts is very good. I'm sorry to say the etched parts did not... as they were designed for the Dragon kit (kit number 6030) the fenders are too large for the Tamiya kit, and as such unusable. Please note that this has nothing to do with the Voyager set, which is very good indeed. But that is what you get for being a cheapskate, not willing to fork out the extra money to buy the proper set.... Luckily for me the fenders in the Tamiya kit are very well done, and I only thinned the edges with a file for a better scale appearance. Clamps and fittings were replaced by Voyager items, and some Eduard 1:48 tool clamps which are more to scale, and to me more importantly, a one piece design rather then the three piece affairs by other manufacturers. Periscope guards were taken from the Voyager set, as well as the intake grille and the plate that slides underneath it. This is a very nice part, and it fitted the Tamiya intake very well. Several wing nuts ▶



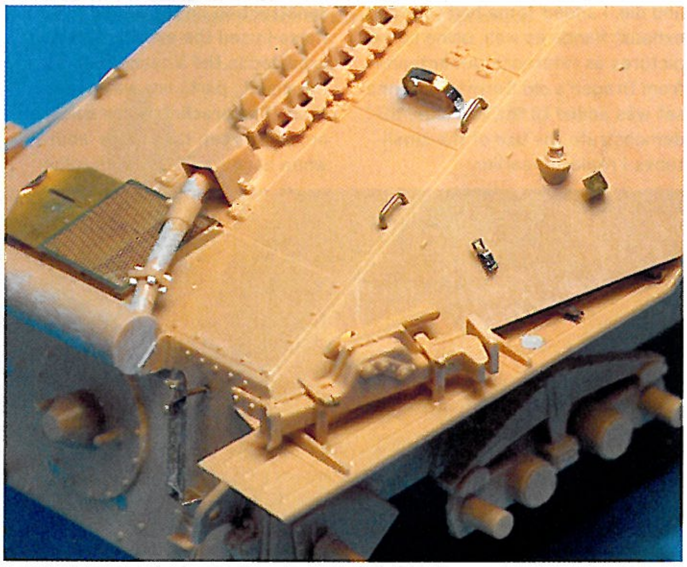
The kit's mantlet received a casting number, which was carefully slided from one of the sprues. Mr. Surfacer 500 was used to boost the subtle cast texture on the Tamiya parts.



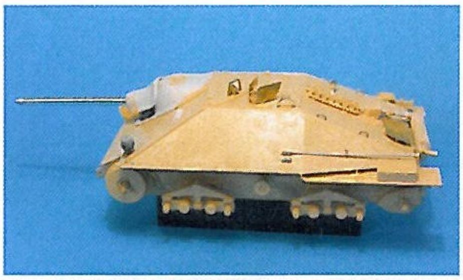
Tamiya supply the tracks in both vinyl and link and length injection plastic. The link and length tracks incorporate the distictive track sag, where as the soft vinyl tracks would be better if making the most of the articulated suspension and displaying the model traversing uneven ground.



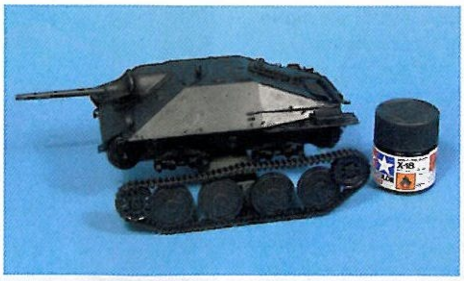
Tamiya supply the spare aerial holders as solid mouldings, the author carefully carved these parts off and replaced them with thin brass tubing.



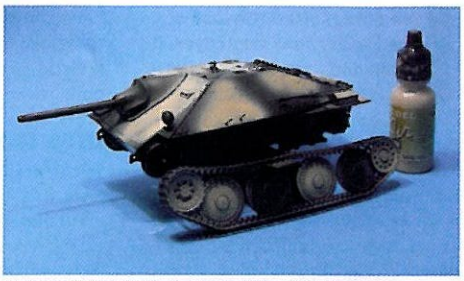
The Engine grille mesh and sliding cover came from the Voyager etched detail set designed for Dragon's early Hetzer, fortunately the parts fitted perfectly over the Tamiya grille.



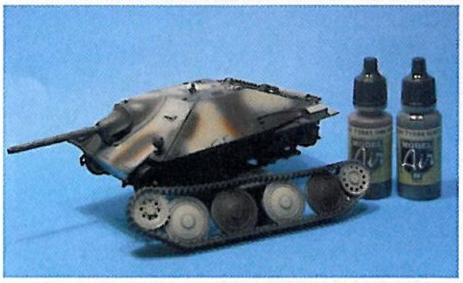
The author's Hetzer is now ready for painting and as the model has been detailed with etched brass and an aluminium barrel it is essential to give the model a primer coat prior to camouflaging.



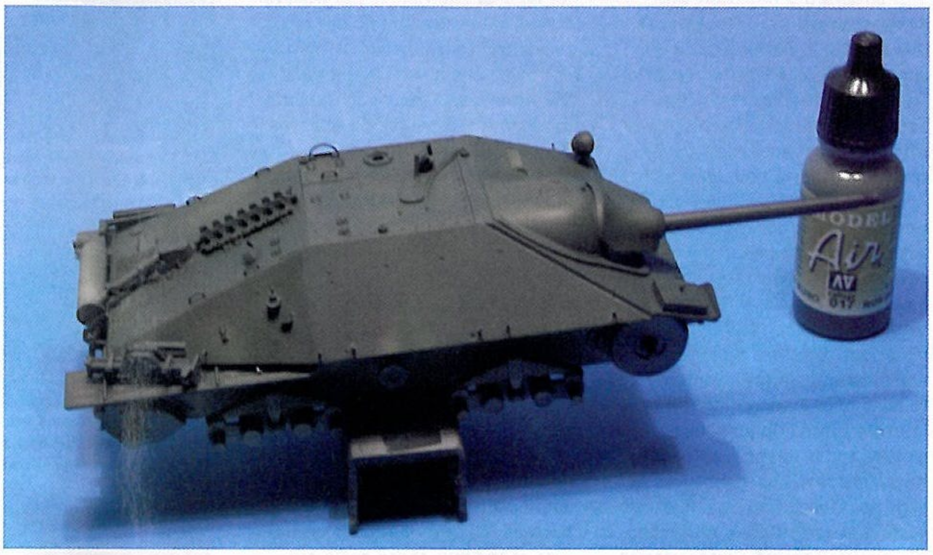
The model received a coat of Tamiya X-18 Semi-Gloss Black to prime the surfaces prior to adding the camouflage colours. Using a semi gloss paint ensures a smooth surface for the following colours.



As the author wanted to have some of the original German camouflage showing through the Russian green, he first airbrushed on patches of Vallejo Model Air Sand (028).



Once the sand was in place Vallejo Tank Brown was airbrushed to finish off the camouflage pattern. Vallejo Black-Grey was applied to the gun barrel to represent the heat resistant coating.



Vallejo Russian Green was airbrushed on very thinly so the original German three colour just showed through.

were taken from an Aber set, as these are better than the ones from Voyager. Some of the tools were left off from the vehicle, as this was a captured vehicle. I reasoned that some of these were taken away from the vehicle by locals or soldiers before it was put into service again. The same goes for the Rundumfeuergerät on the roof. It was assembled without the MG-34, and the armoured plates were replaced by items from Voyager. Bolts were added with the aid of a hexagonal punch and die. I added some bolts to the exhaust flange as well, using some pictures as reference. An antenna from Dragon's old German antenna set was added to the hull side, to demonstrate the use of the small tubes I replaced earlier.

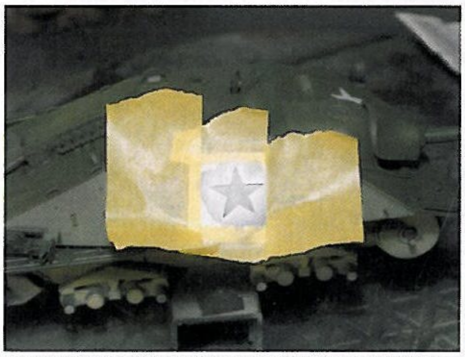
The gun mantled received a casting number, shaved from a kits' sprue, and the cast detail was further enhanced with some Mr.Surfacer 500. The Jordi Rubio barrel turned out to be much too long, and I ended up cutting off nearly an inch to make it look right. I suppose I could have used the plastic onpiece barrel provided in the kit, but I liked the look of the threaded end on the aluminium barrel.

Assembly of the Schürtzen armour was the last part of construction on the agenda. For these I used the excellent parts provided in the Voyager set, as the plastic parts are way over scale. The brackets were soldered on, as this can take more 'abuse' when handling them. Superglue would come off while bending the brackets to their final shape when mounting them on the hull. I marked the place of the mounting brackets on the hull, and drilled some holes. Small lengths of 0.5 mm brass wire were then glued in place, instead of the plastic rod provided by Voyager, as I felt this to be more of a sturdy assembly. Make sure you leave more wire sticking out than is actually needed, as it will make final assembly a lot easier. The rest is then clipped off when the skirts are in place. The washers and nuts are included in the etched set, and they are very nice. They come with a 0.5mm hole in them, so they slide over the wire, making them look like the real deal once in place. They were used on all of the pins, including those without the armoured plates. The washers and plates were then put aside, to be attached after the painting had been completed.

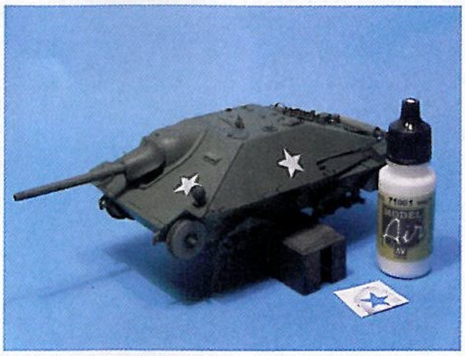
PAINTING IT ALL

As usual I started the painting process with a layer of Tamiya X-18 Semi-Gloss Black. This acts as a primer and pre-shade in one, and, the semi-gloss being nice and smooth, helps to achieve the desired satin finish on the layers of paint that follow.

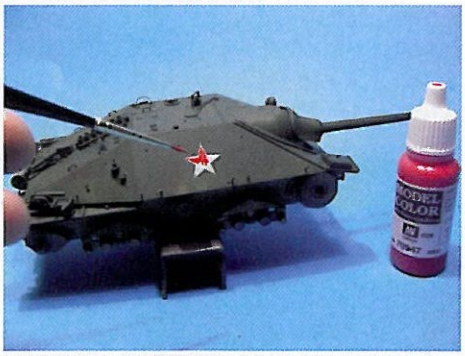
As this is a vehicle that has been painted in the field I thought it would be a good idea to put some of the original colours underneath, and let them show through the green. I subsequently sprayed some patches of Vallejo



The red star was applied by first making a template from thin plastic card before airbrushing with Vallejo Model Air White.



By first spraying the star white will guarantee the red will be nice and bright. spraying the red straight onto the dark green would have resulted in a very dull and lifeless colour.



The Vallejo Model Color Red has been used to fill in the star. The Model Color paints are thicker than the Model Air therefore offer a much better first coat coverage when being brushed on.

Model Air Sand (028) and Tank Brown (041), and the barrel was picked out in Black-Grey (056) to resemble the heat resistant primer that was often used on them. After this a coat of Vallejo Russian Green (017) followed. I left the exhaust in dark yellow, and a piece of spare track was held in front of the (empty) spare track bracket, so its outline shows in dark yellow on the rear plate of the vehicle. Sadly I messed this stage up a bit, as the original colour doesn't show through as much as I had anticipated.... a lesson to be learned for a next build!

For the stars I made a plastic card stencil, using a US star decal as a cutting guide. The stars were then sprayed on the hull in white and filled in by hand with red. Reason for this is the fact that red is a difficult colour to get good coverage over the green base. Later I went back over the white edges with a 000 brush, to make them look entirely hand painted, just like the stars on the real vehicle in the original picture.

Fading was next, using 502 Abteilung oil paints. I put some small dots of Faded Dark Yellow, Luftwaffe Yellow and Snow White all over the surfaces, blending them with white spirit. Doing this in a vertical motion will give the model a nicely faded, somewhat streaked appearance. To make the colour richer and more varied I used more white on the sides, and the yellow tones on the front plate of the vehicle.

Small paint chips were added using the same red-brown and sand colours I had used under the green coat. I found that Vallejo Model Air is an easy paint to use when chipping, as it is nice and thin, making it ideal. I kept the paint chips to a minimum, indicating a freshly repainted vehicle, rather then a tank that looks like it has been used for decades. Some streaking with the green base colour was done to make the large sides look more attractive, this is a fairly simple way of breaking up larger surfaces.

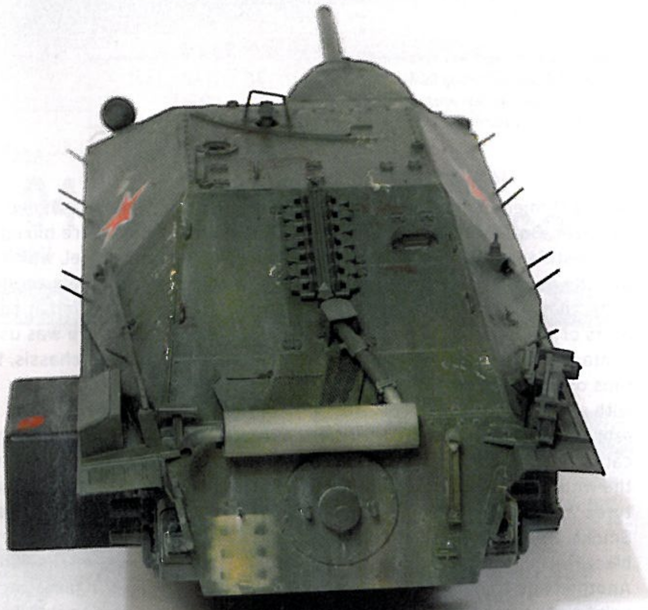
Pinwashes were done with Rembrandt 'Van Dyke Brown' - a very dark, almost black-brown colour and 502 Abteilung 'Wash Brown' to give the Hetzer contrast, and simulate dirt and grime that had accumulated in the recesses. The same 'Van Dyke Brown' was also used to simulate small chips and oil stains on the hatches and wheels. For this I put some small dots of paint on the subsequent surfaces, and apply a liberal amount of white spirit. The white spirit lets the paint disintegrate and the pigments will form small clusters of chips. You can influence this process with a damp paintbrush, moving the chips to were you want them. After drying the effect is very convincing.

Detail painting is next, the headlight was picked out in dark yellow and the spare track links on the roof received a dry brush with dark grey over the green, followed by a wash of 'Burned Brown' and 'Dark Rust' Tensocrom. The exhaust was left in dark yellow during airbrushing, and now it was time to give it a rusty appearance. I started by stippling the exhaust with Vallejo 'Dark Rust' and 'Yellowish Rust' from a 'Panzer Aces' set. These paint sets are very useful, as they contain some good colours for painting and detailing panzers. Over this I used some Tensocrom Burned Brown, Dark Rust and Light Rust, again very useful sets. The Tensocrom gives a nice varied colour to the exhaust, exactly what I was looking for. To finish it all I used some real rust particles, mixed with matt varnish (how real can you get?) and some 'smoke' pigment from the Mig Productions range. To simulate a leaking gasket I put some more of the 'smoke' pigment on the exhaust tube, and directly underneath it, on the engine deck.

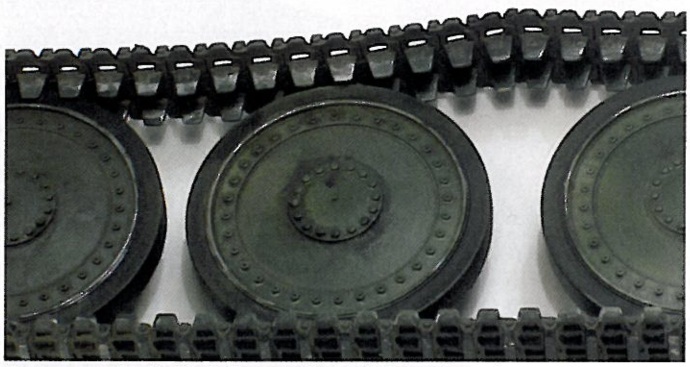
The tracks were treated with subsequent washes of Vallejo Model Air Black Grey (056) and ▶

502 Abteilung
Abt020 Faded Dark Yellow
Abt001 Snow White
MIG

With the basic painting completed, the next step was to add some scuff marks and scratches to represent where the German sand colour has been exposed. This colour was mixed from Abteilung's Snow White and faded Dark Yellow oil paint.



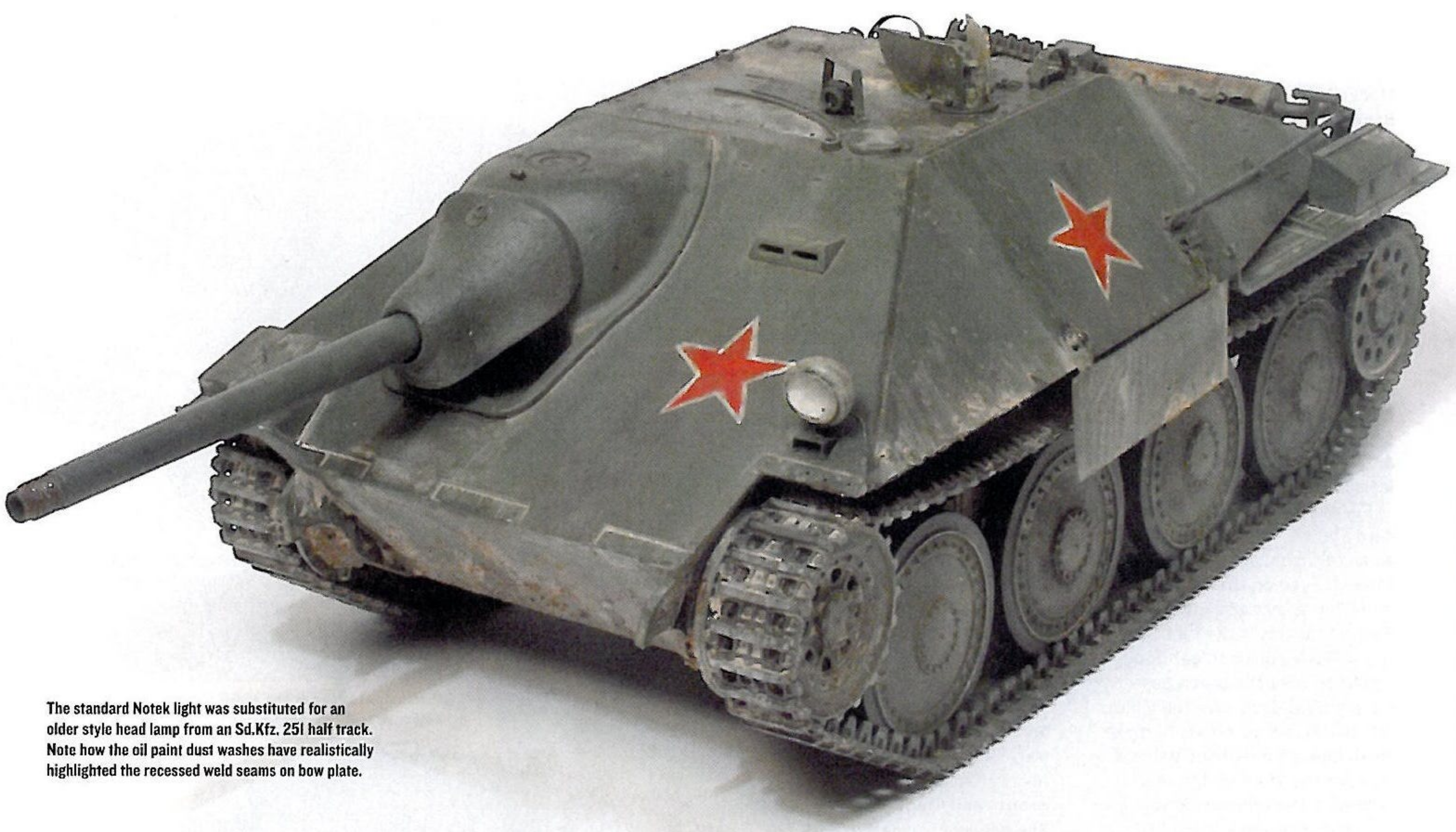
Here we can see where the author has replicated where one of the spare track sections has been removed since the vehicle has been painted in the green used by its 'new owners'.



The tyres were painted in Lifecolor Tensocrom Smoke, which the author reckons is a great colour for replicating black rubber parts. The rims of the wheels have been painted in Humbrol enamel to simulate where the tracks guide horns have rubbed against the rims.

PANZER ACES
COLORI ACRILICI
TENSOCROM
REMBRANDT
BRUIN VAN DYCK

A combination of oil, enamel and acrylic paints have been used to complete the detail painting and weathering on the track assemblies. Remember to add the polished metal enamel colours last as further oil paint/white spirit washes can easily lift these Humbrol metallic colours and ruin the finished effect.



The standard Notek light was substituted for an older style head lamp from an Sd.Kfz. 251 half track. Note how the oil paint dust washes have realistically highlighted the recessed weld seams on bow plate.

Tracks Primer, again from a Panzer Aces set. Both were thinned with distilled water, and applied directly over the semi-gloss black undercoat. The guide horns, the parts of the tracks that come in contact with the ground and the rims of the wheels were painted with silver Humbrol enamel, to represent the polished steel caused by the contact between the wheels and tracks. The rubber tyres were painted with Tensocrom Smoke, as this gives a very nice black finish, exactly like rubber. Another way to get this effect is painting the tyres flat black, and rub some Mig Productions Smoke pigment over them, though it is a more long-winded approach.

Time to get dirty now, my favourite part of the weathering process. Migs' Dark Earth and Dry Mud pigments were mixed with Golden texture gel, which is comparable with Mig's acrylic resin which can be found at good art shops. This mixture was used on the lower hull and chassis, to simulate caked-on mud. After drying for 24 hours this turns into a rock hard surface, on which you can continue weathering. To make the mud tones more varied I gave it some washes of 502 Abteilung Basic Earth and Wash Brown.

At this stage the tracks and wheels were glued in place on the model. I did this so that the weathering on both subassemblies would be consistent. The Schürzen armour was glued in place as well, and the brass nuts and washers received an undercoat of Humbrol Flat Black, followed by the Russian green base colour.

Sand and Earth coloured Tensocrom were used as a pre-dusting, before the final weathering with pigments was added. I applied a liberal amount on the lower parts of the vehicle, concentrating on the fenders, Schürzen and running gear along with some on the roof and engine hatches. The layer on the roof and engine deck was then chipped with Russian green again, to simulate scuffs and scratches made by the crew entering the vehicle.

To finish it all off, a wash was applied consisting of Mig's Dry Mud pigments mixed with white spirit, and after drying the excess was removed with a stiff dry brush. Make sure you leave some in the recesses as this gives a very realistic effect to the vehicle.

The Hetzer was finally fixed to a black oval shaped base, to make it stand out nicely, without any distraction from the model itself. A nameplate was fixed to make it clear to others what this model represents, as it is quite an exotic subject.

CONCLUSION

This was a very enjoyable build. The Tamiya kit is very good, and it quickly builds into a nice model, even when built out of the box! Note to self: don't be a cheapskate, and buy the right photo etch set next time!

I'd like to thank both Staf Snijers and Adam Wilder for their help during this build. ■

The author has achieved this ultra realistic stained and grimy look using a combination of Mig Productions Pigments and Abeilung oil paints.

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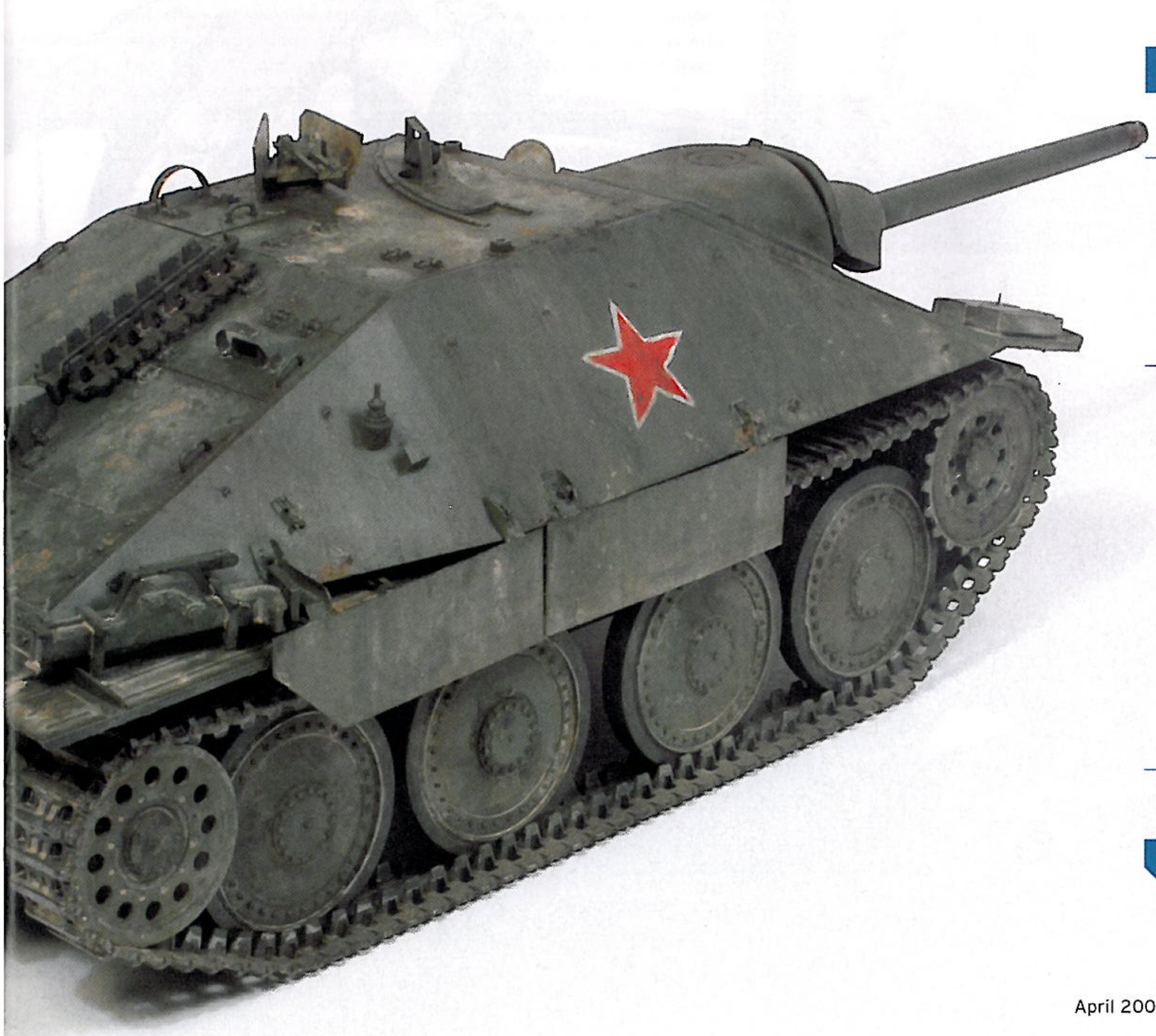


Modelspec

Tamiya Jagdpanzer 38(t) Hetzer - mittlere production
Kit No.35285

Materials

Voyager model photo etched update set PE35009 (for DML 6030)
Voyager have an update set available for Tamiya's Hetzer, PE35176.
Jordi Rubio turned aluminium barrel number TG-52
Eduard 1/48 tool clamp set 28012
Aber wing nuts set number 35A26

Paints used

Tamiya: X18 Semi-gloss black, X-17 Smoke
Vallejo: 028 Sand, 041 Tank Brown, 017 Russian Green, 056 Black-grey
Various colours from a Panzer Aces set
Rembrandt oil paint: Van Dyke Brown
502 Abteilung oil paint: Snow White, Luftwaffe Yellow, Faded Dark Yellow, Wash Brown
Lifecolor: Tensocrom set 1+2
Mig Productions pigments: Dry Mud P232, Dark Mud P033, Smoke P023

☑ A well engineered kit, excellent fit and a pleasure to build.

☒ The kit could do with some photo etched parts to complete the package.

Available from

All good model shops worldwide.

Rating ●●●●●●●●○○

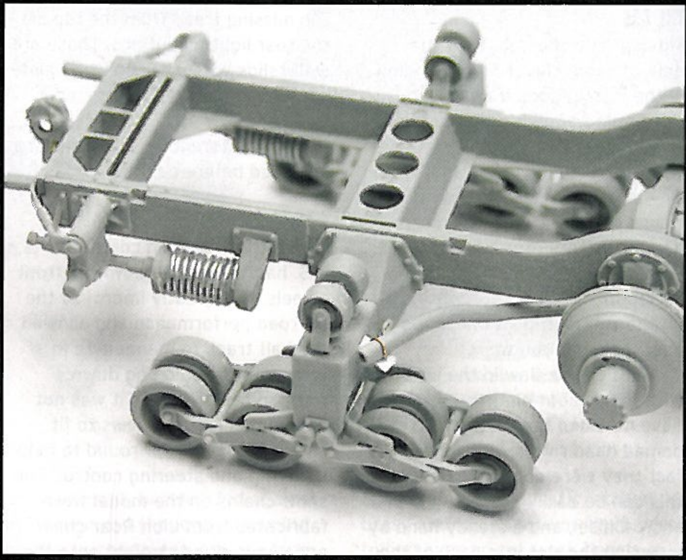
MORTAR ON THE MOVE

Kev Smith gets stuck in to Dragon's second version of the M2 half track.

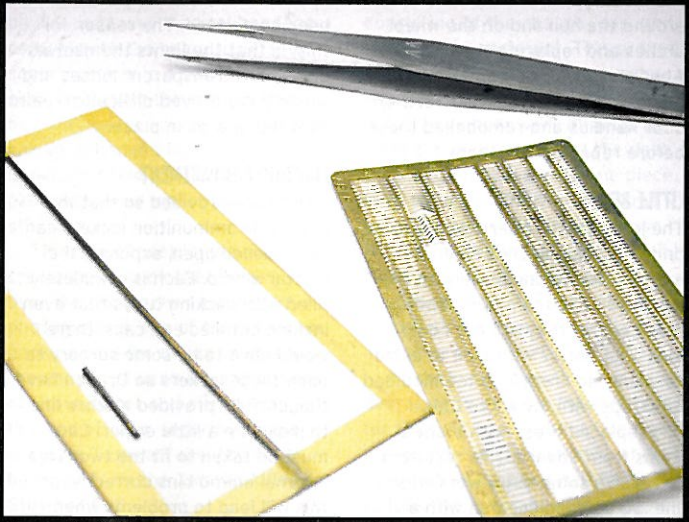
Coming hot on the wheels of the M2/M2A1 the mortar carrier kit borrows heavily from the original with almost all the M2 in the box including the weighted tyres. Only the rear deck being new which incorporates a new floor section with a mount for the 81mm mortar, a new rear panel and door. Dragon has produced some beautiful moulded ammunition bins for the mortar which incidentally is supplied with a turned aluminium barrel. An etch fret that we have come accustomed to from Dragon is included in the kit, this includes the light guards, radiator louvers, mud flaps and windscreen wipers. All the makings of an excellent kit, but not a quick build as the it contains nearly 400 parts! Now it was time to see how well it all goes together. As a relative novice to Allied armour I really didn't know what to expect but with the release of the M2 and the favourable reviews it received I couldn't wait to crack open the box and get started. So armed with the TM -Tankograd Technical Manual Series books (6010 & 6099) by Michael Franz I was ready to begin.

GETTING STARTED

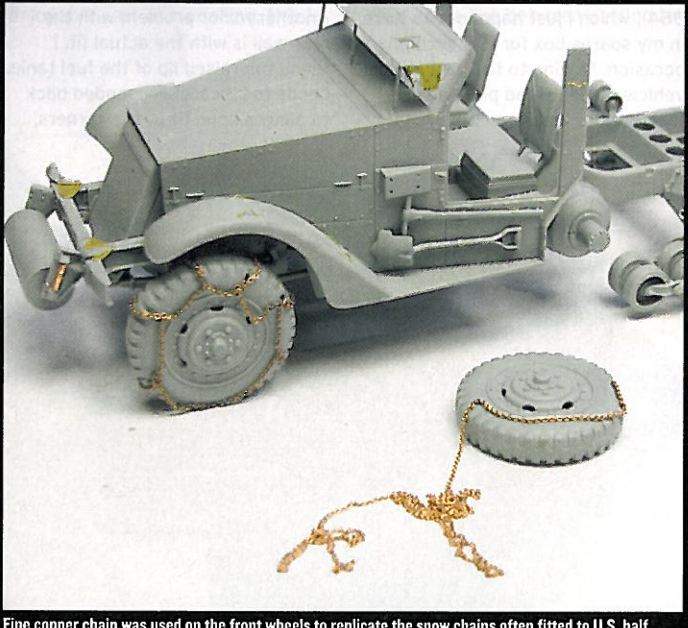
The engine was first, I decided to build it without any extra detailing as I wasn't going to have the bonnet opened up and the engine on display. Though for anyone wanting to super-detail the engine bay you have a great starting point. Next came the drive chain, no real problems here, but I have to say the strut that braces the two bogies would not fit without some minor surgery, in hindsight I could have replaced this with plastic rod! I did add some drain holes to either side of the bogies these were made with disks of plastic card which were glued into position then left to dry. I then drilled these out using a slightly smaller diameter drill to get the distinctive 'lip' around the edge of the hole. The other addition was to make a bracket from plastic and thin wire to hold the exhaust pipe in place. Dragon has used their slide mould technology to create a set of very impressive drive sprockets and rear idlers. The road wheels and bogies are made up from twenty parts, some clever design has gone into these to make the construction relatively easy. I wasn't happy with the solid moulded springs on the rear idler adjustment mountings, so I removed the moulded springs and replaced them with thin solder. The un-ditching roller was next to receive a little extra work. This comes in two halves and care must be taken to conceal the join lines with some gentle sanding, I also decided to replace the two large springs which are moulded onto the chassis mountings with some new ones fabricated from copper wire. ▶



The kit's Idler wheel tensioner spring was replaced with soft solder wire. The exhaust pipe also received a new mounting bracket, this part was missing from the kit.



The many tiny tie-down loops were fashioned from etched brass parts. Note the small jig on the left used to be able to shape lots of the tie-downs in one go. By making a jig like this saves the author a lot of time.



Fine copper chain was used on the front wheels to replicate the snow chains often fitted to U.S. half tracks to aid traction on soft, wet or frozen ground. Note the fine copper wire used to detail the un-ditching roller

THE CAB

Moving onto the cab. With the help of some clever colour coding in the instructions it made the positioning of all of the gear levers and other details straightforward without the worry of getting these tiny parts mixed up. The only things missing from the cab area are the drivers foot pedals, so I scratch built some using plastic card but these are scarcely visible on the completed kit and could be over looked if you wish.

A noticeable flaw in the kit is with the armour plating, Dragon have moulded these fixings as domed head rivets, when in actual fact they were domed head screws, this can be easily corrected with a Micro Chisel, and a steady hand by inserting the slot into each of the screw heads. Another improvement was made by carefully removing the moulded tie down points around the hull and on the wheel arches and replacing them with Aber photo etched items. I also carefully removed the moulded-on door handles and remodelled these before repositioning them.

LITTLE BITS

The jerry cans that are mounted on the outside of the cab doors are moulded in one piece with the can, strap and the mount. They look good as they are but could look a lot better with a bit of extra detailing, so I removed the moulded on straps with my Micro Chisel and replaced these with etched items from Eduard. The next item to receive some extra work was the .30 cal machine gun with a M35 cradle, this is really very nice indeed but I couldn't resist fitting an Armorscale brass barrel (B35-064), which I just happened to have in my spares box for just such an occasion. Moving to the back of the vehicle, I used tread plate decals from Archer Fine Transfers to add the missing tread from the top of the rear light mountings. These are waterslide with a raised tread plate pattern, and should be treated in the same way as any other decals, the only difference is that they are attached before painting.

WHEELS AND CHAINS

Unlike their German counterparts, U.S. half tracks had powered front wheels, this greatly improved the off road performance and allowed the half track to manoeuvre in terrain that would bog down a German half track. So it was not uncommon for the crews to fit snow chains all year round to help with grip and steering control. The snow chains on the model were fabricated from Lion Roar chain and super glued straight onto the tyres. The headlight guards which are supplied on the etch fret were left off until after the painting had been completed. The reason for this, is that the lights themselves come with transparent lenses and would have proved difficult to paint with the guards in place.

FIGHTING COMPARTMENT

Inserts are provided so that the large side ammunition lockers can be modelled open, exposing the mortar ammo. Each is completely filled with packing tubes that even include detailed end caps, there would have to be some surgery to open these lockers so Dragon have thoughtfully provided a score line to make life a little easier. Care must be taken to fit the two large internal ammo bins correctly, or this will lead to problems when attaching the sides. There are some ejector pin marks on the rear wall and the door that need to be filled. Another minor problem with the rear wall is with the actual fit. I found the raised lip of the fuel tanks needs to be carefully sanded back to allow a snug fit at the corners.

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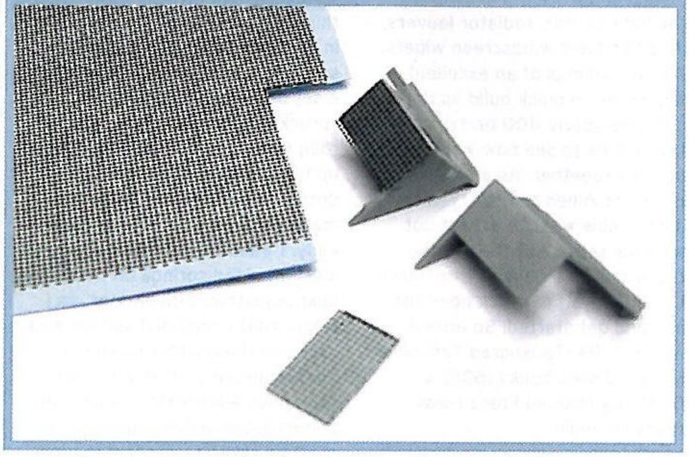
MICROSCALE INDUSTRIES, INC.
MICRO SOL
SETTING SOLUTION FOR DECALS
MICROSCALE INDUSTRIES, INC.
MICRO SET
SETTING SOLUTION FOR DECALS

Tech Tip!

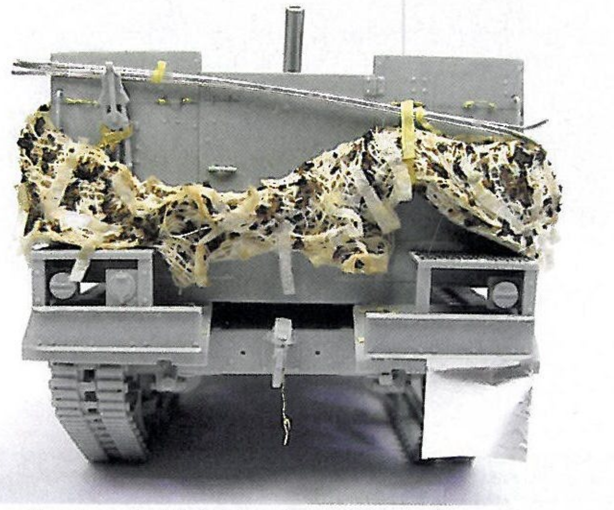
Archer Fine Transfers, new Treadplate surface detail set was used to add the missing tread plate. This waterslide decal is applied in exactly the same way as any waterslide decal. Micro Set and Sol can be used to settle the decal down and conform to any surface detail.



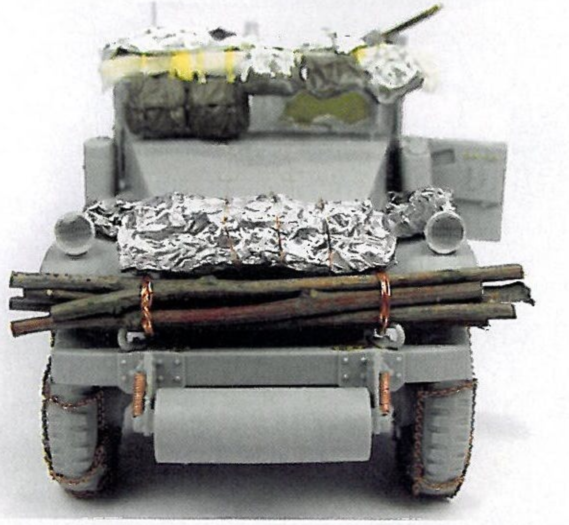
The radio is nicely detailed as it comes in the kit and only needed some thin wire adding along with a better detailed antenna base from Armorscale (S35-001). The other area that could cause some problems is with the fitting of the machine gun skate ring, there are a number of location points that fit onto the side armour, the problem again lies with the internal ammo bins, and if these aren't fitted correctly the rail won't fit between the bins and the side walls. This I found was best tackled with some careful dry-fitting before committing myself by adding glue.

FIGHTING COMPARTMENT FLAW

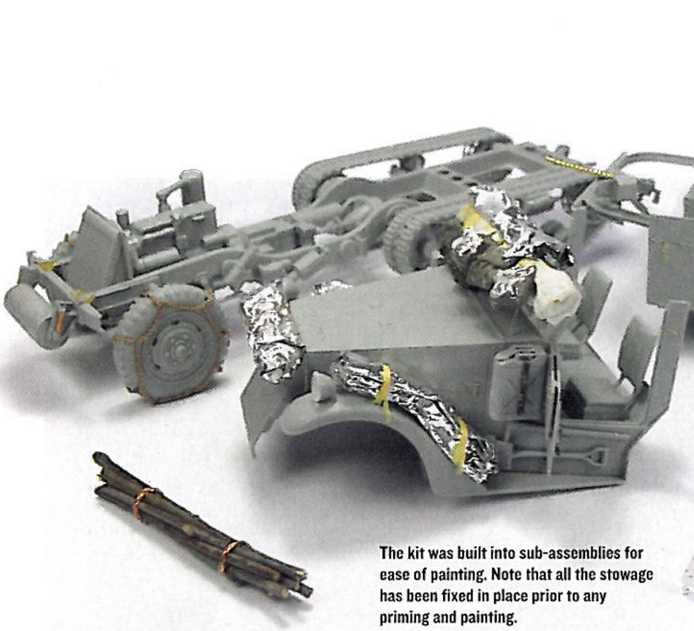
The second major and most disappointing problem by far is with the internal layout of the fighting compartment. On production vehicles (M4A1), the base plate for the mortar was raised and reinforced, there was also a plate installed with spaced holes that ran in an ark to place the tripods feet into, which would run the full width of the rear to allow a greater traverse of the tube. The two eight round magazines that are mounted to the rear of the vehicle were removed and the seats were relocated. Two



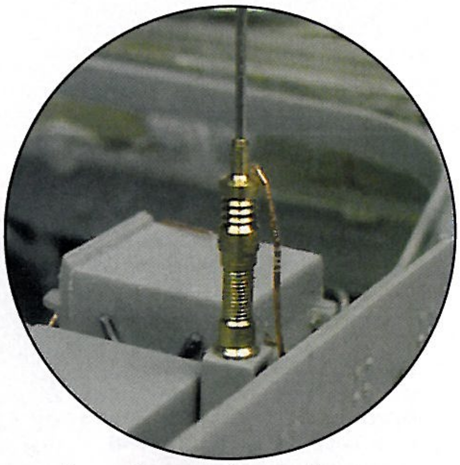
The author used book binding web, tea leaves and thin strips of tissue paper to make the camouflage nets.



The tarpaulins have been fabricated from kitchen foil and the logs are actually twigs from a real tree. Note the ultra thin copper wire and tiny chains used to retain the logs and tarpaulins.



The kit was built into sub-assemblies for ease of painting. Note that all the stowage has been fixed in place prior to any priming and painting.



The turned brass antenna base comes from Armorscale and is available in the UK from www.armour-models.co.uk

large external bins were attached to the rear to accommodate the ammo removed from the crew area, a shelf was also fitted below the bins, this is all clearly visible in the TM book 6099.

The model represents a very early mark of vehicle, and not the M4A1 which were common to the European theatre. The mistakes can be easily corrected with some relatively simple scratch building using plastic card. Why didn't you? I can hear you ask, because I got carried away with the build and didn't realise until it was too late, maybe next time!

MORTAR

The 81mm mortar that comes in the kit is nicely presented by Dragon, the tube comes in two turned aluminium parts allowing the tube wall to be the correct scale thickness. The mortar was originally intended to be fired from the ground and mounted on the vehicle for transit, and only to be fired from the vehicle as a last resort. A base plate is also included in the kit so if you wish to model the mortar in the ground role you can.

STOWAGE

Take a look at any footage or photographs of Allied armour and particularly the half tracks and you will see that they are covered with stowage of all descriptions. Stowage is an integral feature if you are modelling Allied vehicles, you have the choice of commercial products or scratch building your own stowage. I chose to incorporate both, using the Tamiya Allied Vehicle Set (No 229) and fabricating some tarpaulins and bed rolls from kitchen foil and tissue paper. I usually try and paint my models with the majority of stowage in place, I find that doing it this way keeps the continuity of the painting. It also helps with the overall natural look of the model and does not look as if it has not been added as an after thought! I started with the cam net, toying with the idea of draping the netting all around the sides of the fighting compartment, but decided against in the end as I thought this would be too much. As you can see from the finished model I settled to cover the rear only. The netting is straight forward, I use book binding web, but medical bandage can produce the same results, by soaking either in a solution of PVA glue and water, the net can then be moulded into place. The netting can be enhanced further with tea leaves and thin strips of tissue paper attached whilst the net is still tacky.

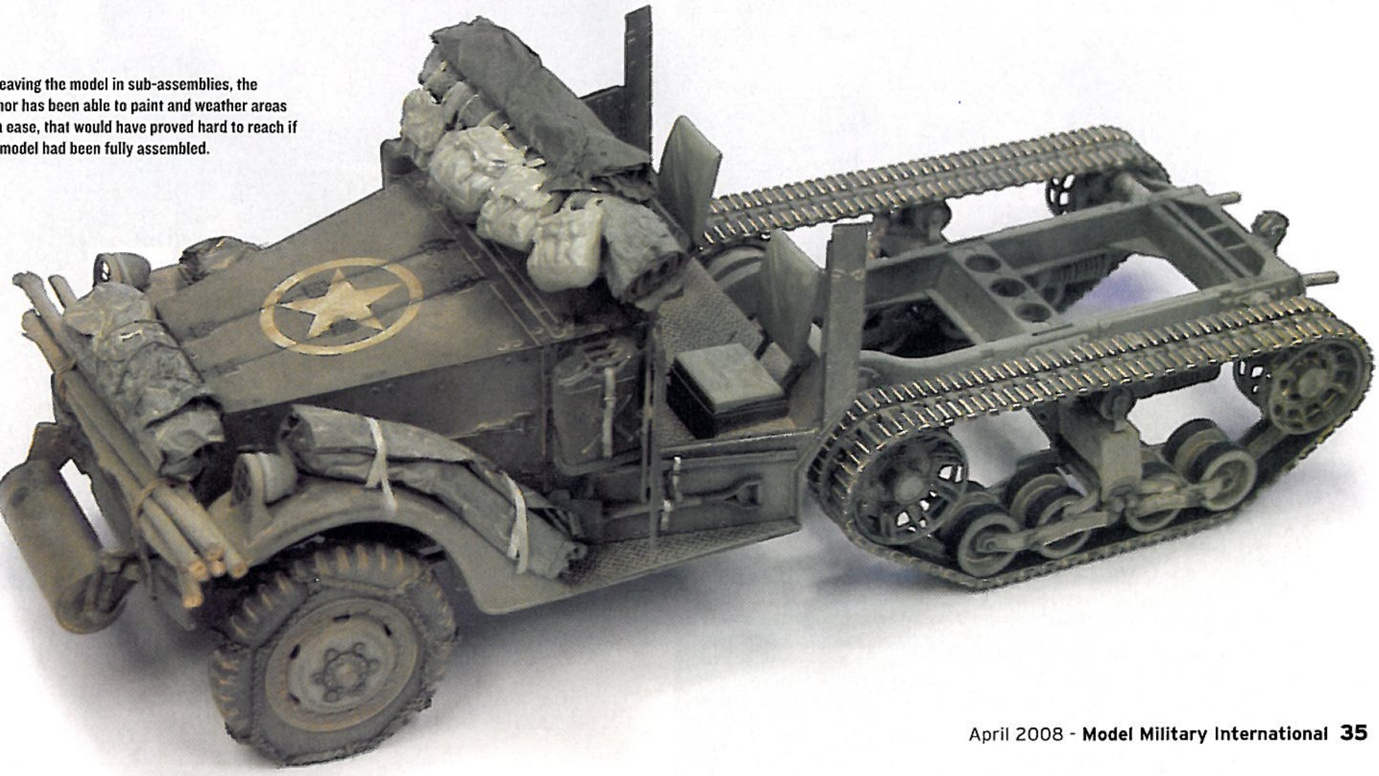
The idea of positioning the crews packs and other items over the windscreen came from a photograph in one of the reference books I used for this project. For the sheeting I used a combination of tissue paper and kitchen foil finished off with securing straps cut from Tamiya Tape, the crew bags are from the Tamiya Allied Stowage Set.

PAINTING

For me this is by far the most enjoyable part of modelling, this is the time that the plastic, etched brass and resin that you have been toiling over on the work bench up and till now, starts to come to life.

For ease of painting the kit was kept in the three sub assemblies, consisting of the chassis, cab, and fighting compartment. This proved particularly helpful when it came to painting the cab area, where it would have been very difficult to paint the dials and detail the dash area if the model was in one piece. With so many different mediums used on the model, plastic, brass, aluminium and in this case tin foil it is important to have a tough base coat to work on. I always use an automotive primer as this sprays and covers very well.

After the undercoat was left overnight to dry, the M4 was ready for the first coat of Olive Drab. In my minds eye I had an idea what I wanted the finished half track to look like, from my reference pictures I could see that most of the dirt/dust collected on the flat surfaces to the rear of the vehicle. With a fine line between getting the ▶



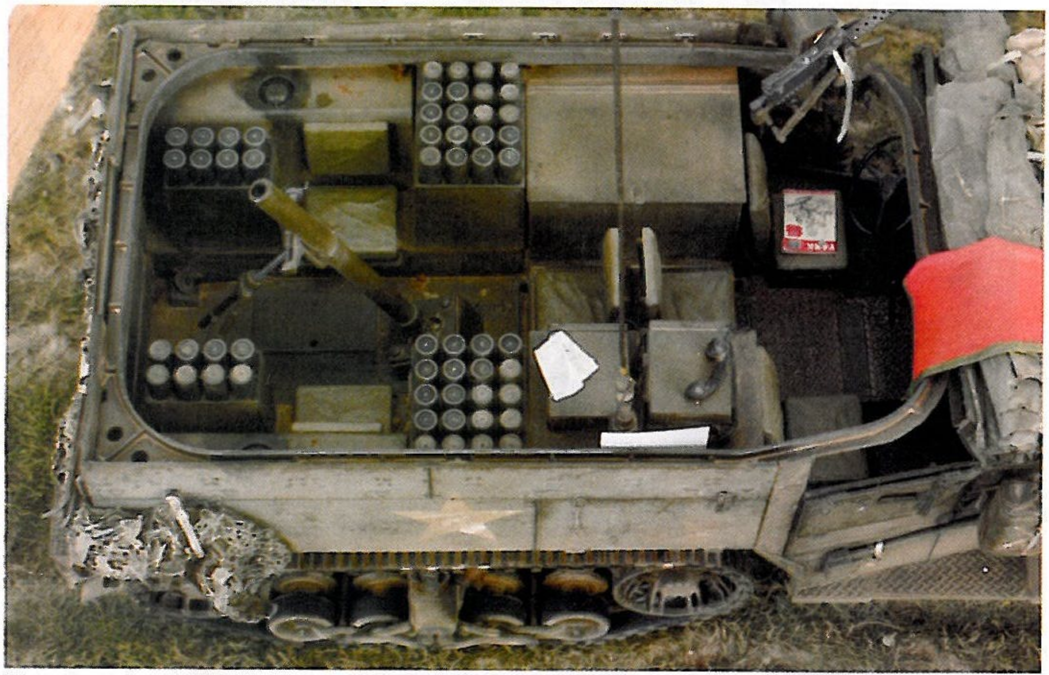
By leaving the model in sub-assemblies, the author has been able to paint and weather areas with ease, that would have proved hard to reach if the model had been fully assembled.

◀ effect just right and going too far, I decided to gradually build up the layers of dust.

OLIVE DRAB

I started with the whole model receiving a thinned coat of Tamiya Olive Drab (XF-62), this was sprayed through my Evolution airbrush 1.5 bar I was keen to bring life into an otherwise monotone finish of Allied Armour, So I lightened the Olive Drab mix with some Tamiya Yellow Green (XF-4) concentrating on the centre of all the panels. This worked well for the internal areas, but by the time I had finished weathering the external areas this effect was hardly noticeable. The next stage was to apply the decals, it's important that these go onto at least a satin surface, this ensures that when the decals dry out you are not left with a silvering effect around the edges. I use Micro Set/Sol solution which comes as a two part system as is designed to avoid the nasty silvering effect which can often happen when applying decals onto the surface of a model.

With the decals sorted out, it was time to start the weathering. A wash of Humbrol Light Earth (119) and Mid Stone (84) enamel paint was prepared in a plastic container, the pigment was taken from the bottom of the tins with a cocktail stick then thinned to a milk like consistency. I began with the inside of the fighting compartment, there are lots of areas were the dirt/dust would collect, for example the locker tops particularly under the skate ring for the .30 cal, around the radios, and on top of the fuel tanks, in fact any areas where movement by the crew would disturb the dust. All flat surfaces received a wash from the mix, then using a clean brush and clean white spirit, the excess wash was carefully removed from the areas most effected by the movement of the crew. This process was repeated a number of times until a convincing build up of dust was achieved. It is important that the edges are feathered in to remove any 'tide marks' when dry. The tops of a number of the ammunition tubes were kept clean to suggest that the vehicle has recently undergone an ammunition replenishment. Finally to add a little colour and interest a pin-up poster was stuck to one of the ammo bins, happy with the results I moved onto the cab area, where exactly the same techniques were employed.

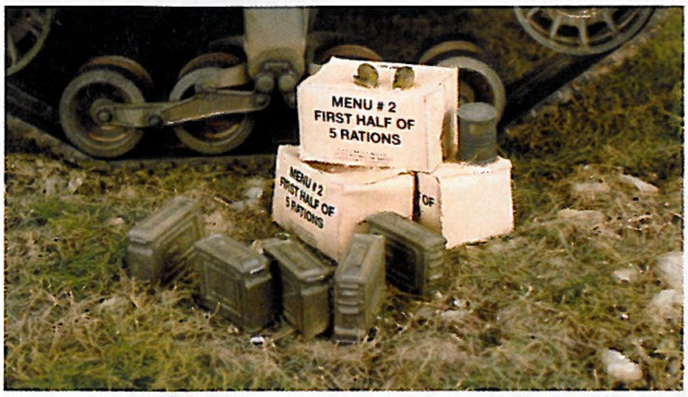


Of interest here is the realistic way the author has created the ultra realistic dusty and dirty interior, this is explained in the main text. Note that some of the mortar round packing tubes are cleaner than others, to show that some have been fired and replenished recently.

TRACK PAINTING

I painted the tracks in a faded black colour before adding a polished metal effect to the guide horns and running surfaces of the drive sprocket and rear idlers with a soft lead pencil. After a little gentle persuasion the finished road wheel assemblies were fitted in

MENU # 2
FIRST HALF OF
5 RATIONS
M4
81mm MORTAR
CARRIER



The printed card ration boxes such as these used here are supplied in the Tamiya Allied Stowage Set or are available from companies such as Dio-Art stocked in the UK by www.accurate-armour.com.

place. The exhaust was next, and was painted with Vallejo Salmon Rose (835) acrylic paint, and then patches of Vandyke Brown oil paint were randomly applied all over the exhaust before being left to dry. Washes of various browns were then applied, before a final dusting with Mig Productions Light Rust (PO23). With the chassis finished I could finally attach all the sub assemblies together before adding scuffs and scrapes around the tops of the hull sides and around the edges of the external lockers. This was done by first applying Winsor and Newton art masking fluid with a sharpened cocktail stick, followed by a couple of very light coats of Thinned Tamiya Buff (XF-57). The masking fluid was removed with fine tipped tweezers, this process was repeated a couple of times to gradually build-up the layers of dust and vary the freshness of the scrapes. Finally to finish off, some U.S. Army digging tools and a role of barbed wire from the spares box were attached to the vehicle along with an air recognition panel cut from lead foil.

BASE

The base started life as a picture frame. The groundwork is a mixture of filler, PVA glue and static grass that was left to dry overnight, and then sprayed with various browns, followed with a light scattering of static grass finished off with random dry brushing of different shades of green starting with the dark shades. Once dry the odd stone was picked out with Humbrol Khaki Drill, these were enhanced further with pin washes. After the basic groundwork was finished, the final job was to add a light dusting of Tamiya Buff to marry the vehicle and the groundwork together.

FIGURE

I used the U.S Tank crew in winter #1(35033) from the excellent Alpine range, and painted with Humbrol enamels and oils.

CONCLUSION

Looking back over the build I found it to be an enjoyable project, certainly there are oversights with the screw heads and tyres. But the biggest and most disappointing one is that Dragon have got the configuration wrong. The remainder of the kit is well done, the moulding and fit are especially good, and I am looking forward to their future releases. ■

Modelspec

Dragon M4 Mortar Carrier	kit No. 6361

Sets used

Aber Tie Down Cleats 35056
Eduard U.S. Army Straps
Armoscale .30 Brass Barrel B35-064
Armoscale Brass Antenna Mount S35-001
Archer Raised Treadplate Pattern AR 8008
Lion Roar Chain
Tamiya Allied Stowage Set No. 229
Alpine Figure - U.S Tank Crew in Winter #1 (35033)

Paints used

Tamiya - XF-62 Olive Green
XF-57 Buff
XF-4 Yellow Green
Humbrol - 84 Mid Stone
119 Light Green
Vallejo - 835 Rose Salmon Pink
Oils - Vandyke Brown
Pigments - Light Rust (PO 23)

Reference

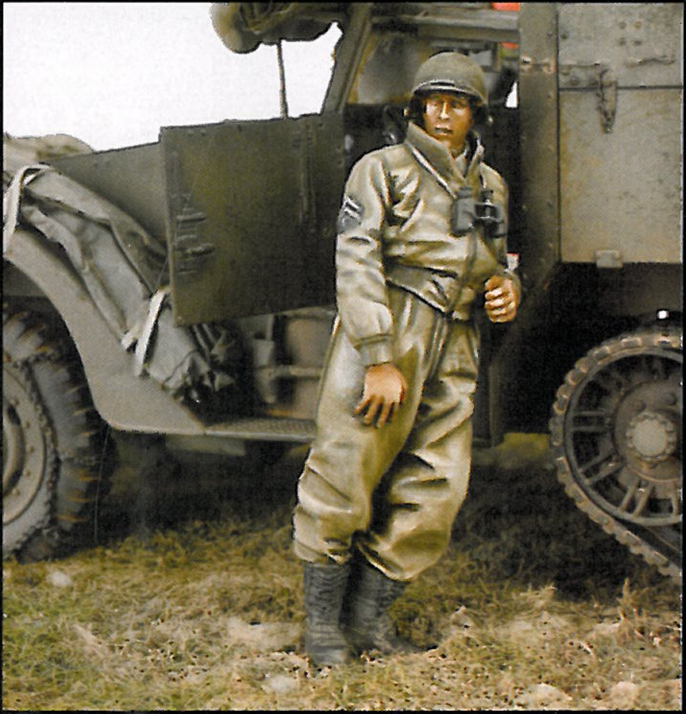
TM-Tankograd Technical Manuals 6010, 6099
Allied and Axis Book No.19

☑ State of the art moulding.
☒ Incorrect configuration.

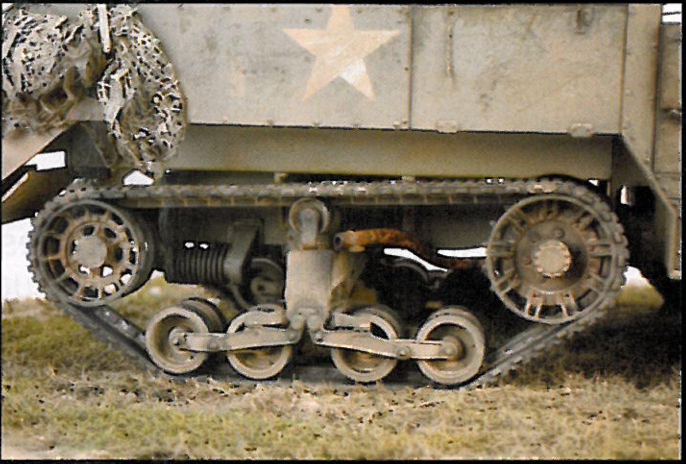
Available from

All good modelshops worldwide

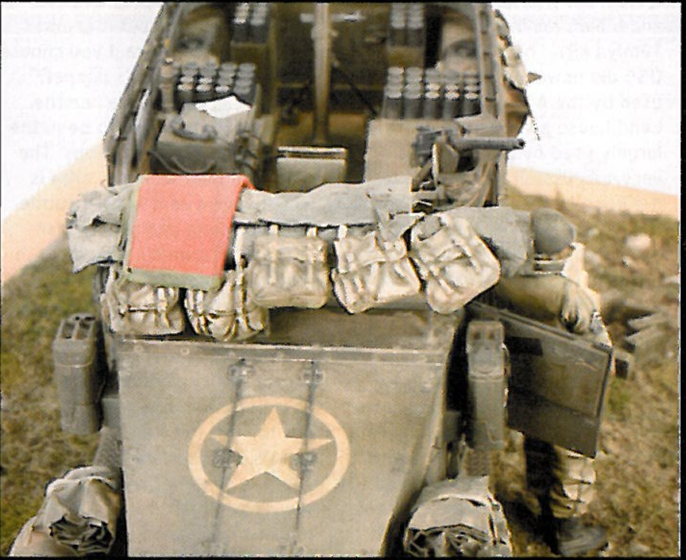
Rating ●●●●●●●○○○



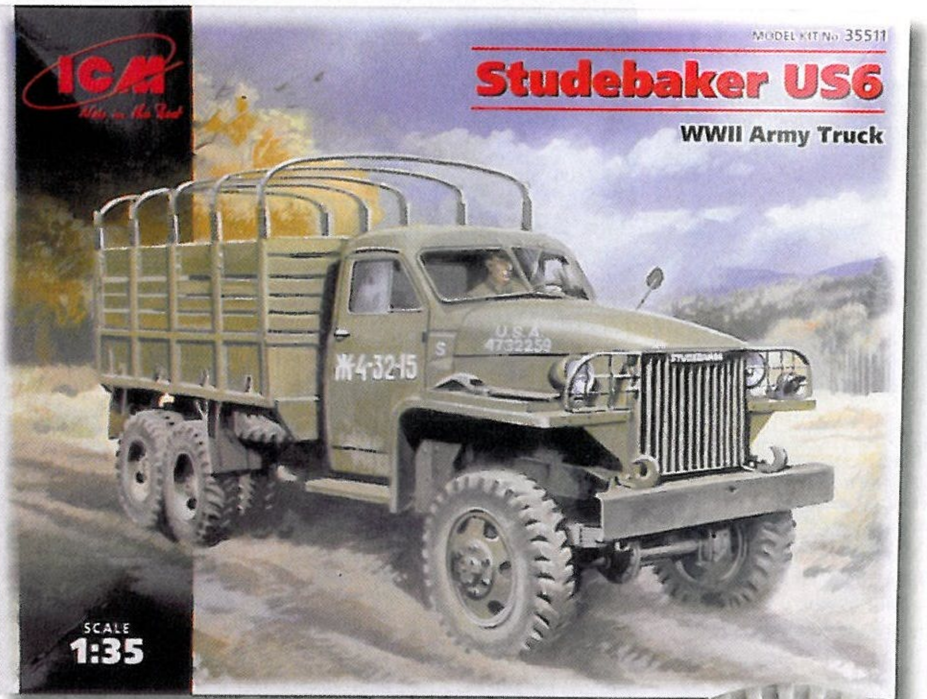
To give the model some scale the author has used one of the excellent Alpine Miniatures resin figures, in this case U.S. Tank Crew in Winter No. I (35033). Available in the UK from www.afvmodeller.com



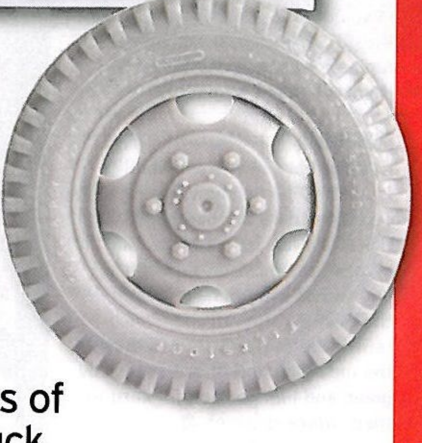
Dragon have done a very good job of replicating the complex drive sprockets and idlers. A vast improvement over the parts seen on the old Tamiya U.S. half track kits.



The equipment stowed on the armoured windscreen has been made up from a combination of packs from the Tamiya Allied Stowage Set, No. 229 and folded up kitchen foil, the straps have been made from thin strips of Tamiya masking tape.



LEND LEASE LORRY



Graeme Carruthers sings the praises of ICM's all new Studebaker 2.5 ton truck, definitely a model that's been long overdue.

The Studebaker truck was a perfectly good vehicle that wasn't adopted by the US Army as they decided to concentrate mainly on the GMC Deuce and a half, (as in the excellent Tamiya kit). The Studebaker US6 did however go on to be used by the Allies as part of the Lend Lease programme and was largely used by the Russians very successfully. Not only was it a good transport vehicle, but the Russians found it was an excellent platform to mount the Katusha rocket system on.

The kit contains six sprues and a separately bagged piece for the cab roof. The sprues come in various shades of grey and are for the most part well cast and contain many fine parts, such as very delicate windscreen wipers, that will need some careful removal to ensure they don't break. There is a small amount of flash present, especially on the front grille pieces but it will be easy to deal with a swipe of the file. The front grille should have the Studebaker logo embossed on it as per the box art but the kit part is just a plain plaque.
(possibly a copyright issue?)

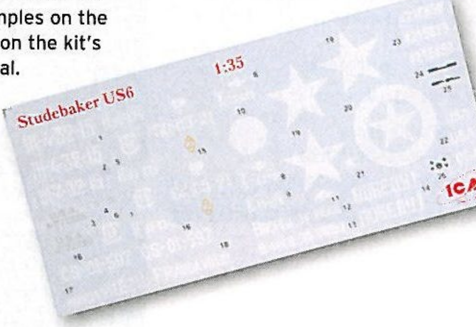
A full engine is provided and looks pretty good but it can be detailed up with wire if you choose to open up the truck's bonnet.

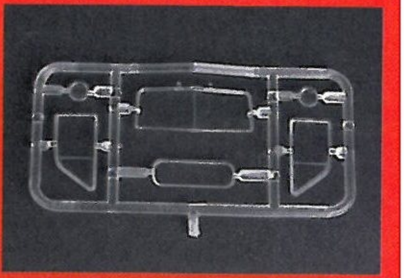
The rear cargo area has the options for the seats to be in the raised or lowered positions. The woodgrain detail in this area is worth noting as it is very subtle, not over done and should look in scale if carefully picked out in the painting stage. The rear area covering frames are nice and thin but do suffer from mould lines.

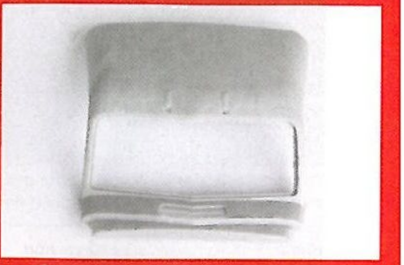
The tread pattern on the tyres should be offset down the centre as is seen on the examples on the box top but the tread on the kit's wheels are symmetrical. There is no easy way to correct this and replacement will need to be sourced.

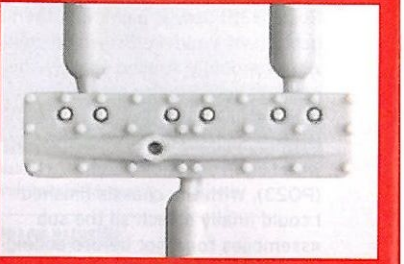
The cab area is nicely detailed with no sink marks found on the inner surfaces except in an area that will be hidden by the seat. The dials are represented as moulded details that you can paint or decal if you wish. The steering wheel is particularly fine and has nicely moulded scalloped grip detail on its rear surface.

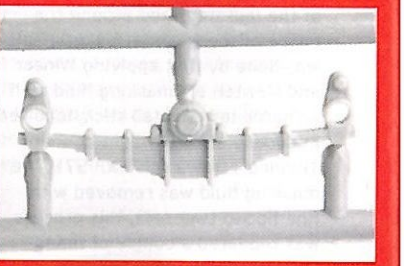
This is a vehicle that a lot of modellers have been waiting for a long time and apart from the wheel tread problem the kit will build into a great looking truck. At the time of writing, Azimut of France have jumped on the aftermarket bandwagon and announced a Katusha conversion. Highly Recommended ■

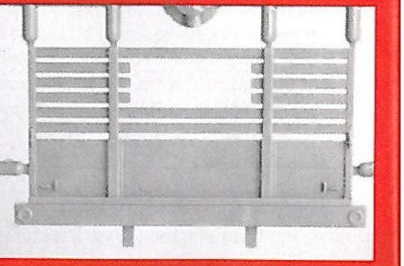


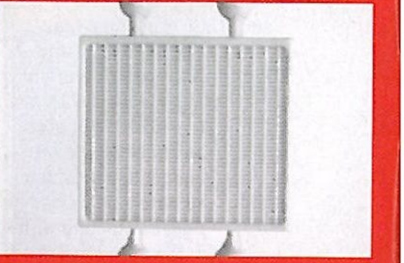


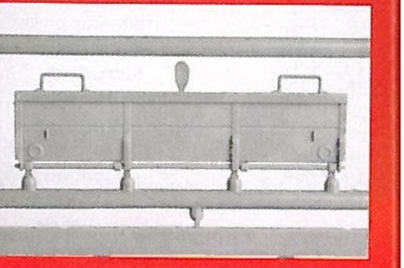












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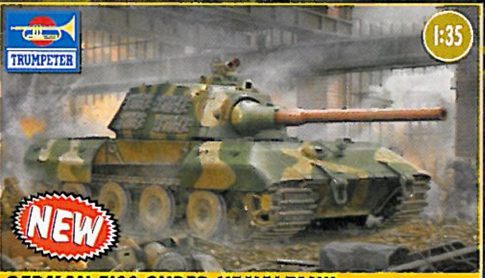
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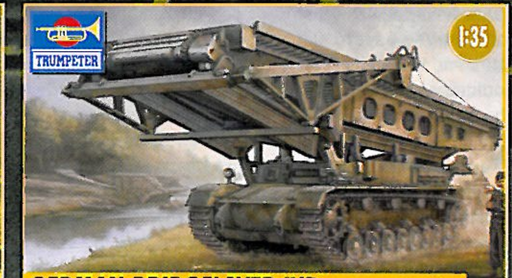
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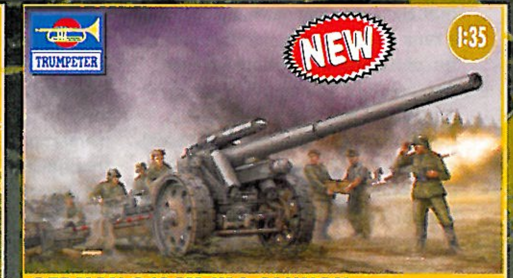
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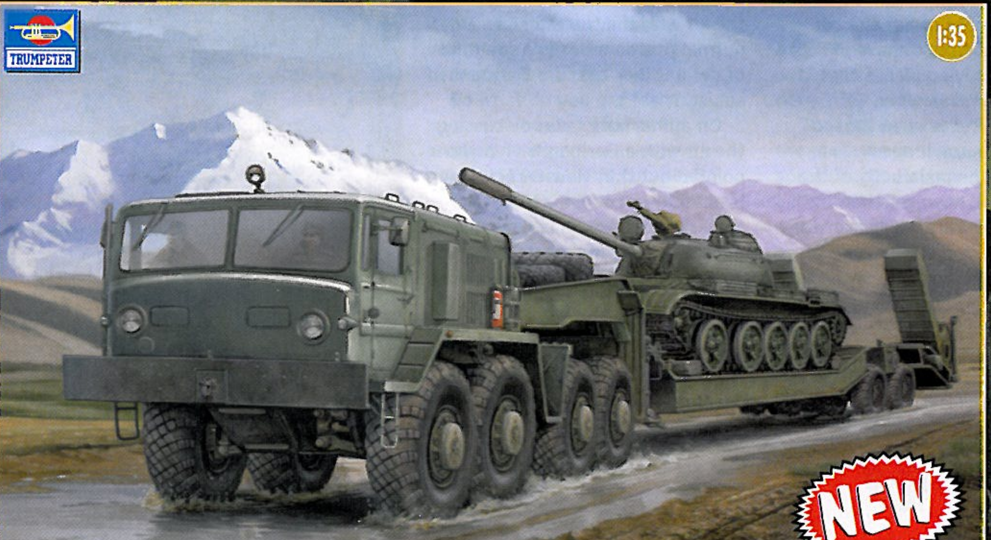
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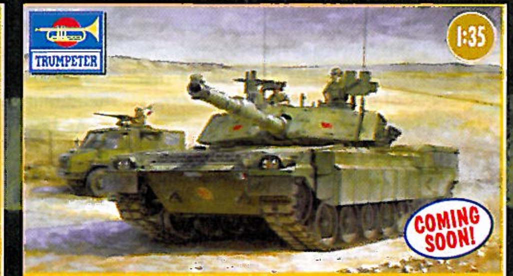
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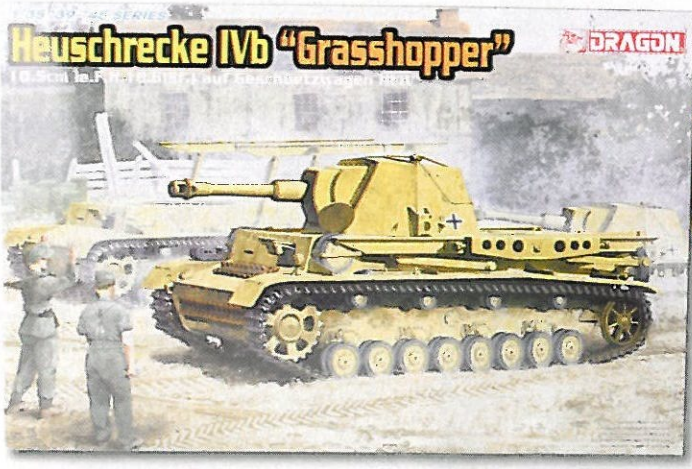
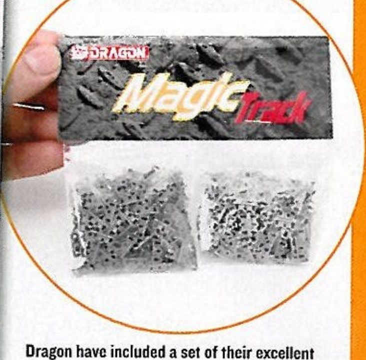
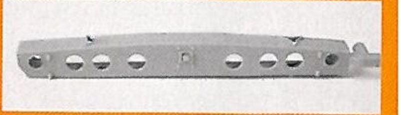
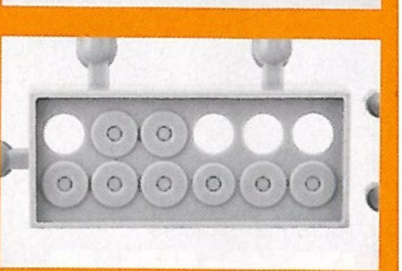
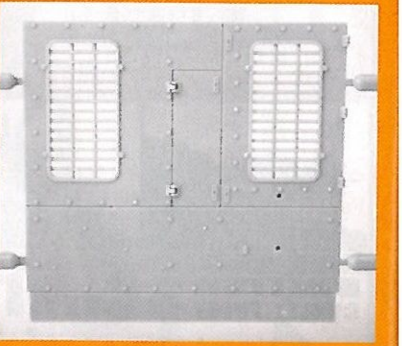


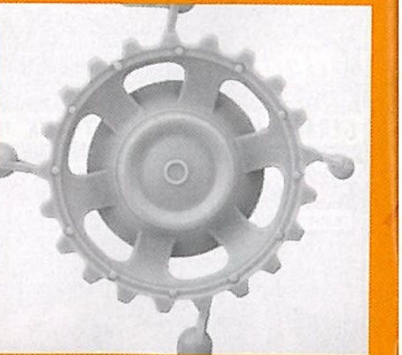


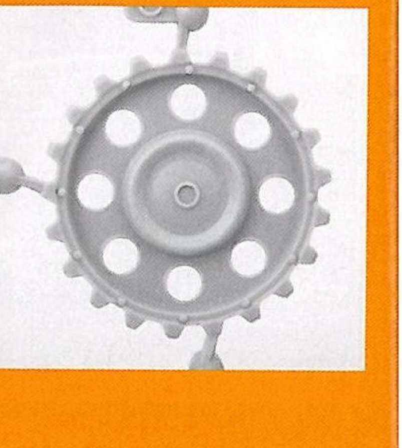
Dragon have included a set of their excellent Magic Tracks. Note the different shades of grey for easy identification, as the tracks are handed.



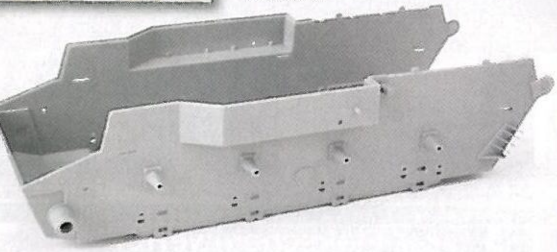








Graeme Carruthers takes a look at Dragon's latest and rather unusual release, the Heuschrecke IV B 'Grasshopper'.



AH, GRASSHOPPER!

This is definitely one vehicle I thought I would never see a kit of, never mind a kit in plastic! This is one of those mad ideas that the Germans came up with, a tank that can remove its own turret, haul it around on a trailer or place it in a fixed position. Go figure? Not surprisingly only three of these were built with one surviving at the Aberdeen Proving Ground in the US and this must be the vehicle that Dragon have used as the basis for the kit.

Within the box you will find new sprues for the Heuschrecke, suspension from the recent batch of Panzer IVs, one from a Stug III G and one from the Hummel/Nashhorn. Top this off with a sheet of etch, infantry gear from Dragon's Gen 2 figures, clear periscopes and a set of handed Panzer IV 'magic tracks'. The decal sheet is small and contains only four crosses, however wartime images seem to show the vehicle unmarked.

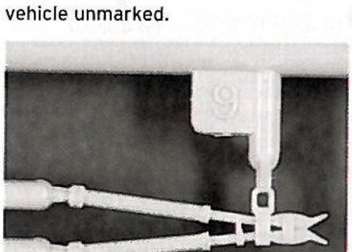
Recent Dragon kits have pushed the boundaries of detail and moulding and this kit is no different. The main turret piece has walls that are delicately thin, the track guards have superbly crisp detail on both the upper and under sides and the tools with their moulded on clasps have to be the best I have seen, (remember the days when we thought the Tamiya Panzer IV tool set was the best thing around?). Slide mould technology is seen in abundance on this kit and so is Dragon's technique of adding lots of mouldings pips. Love them or hate them, I think it is better for the modeller to have to cut these pips of than to have injector marks in annoying places that need filling and sanding.

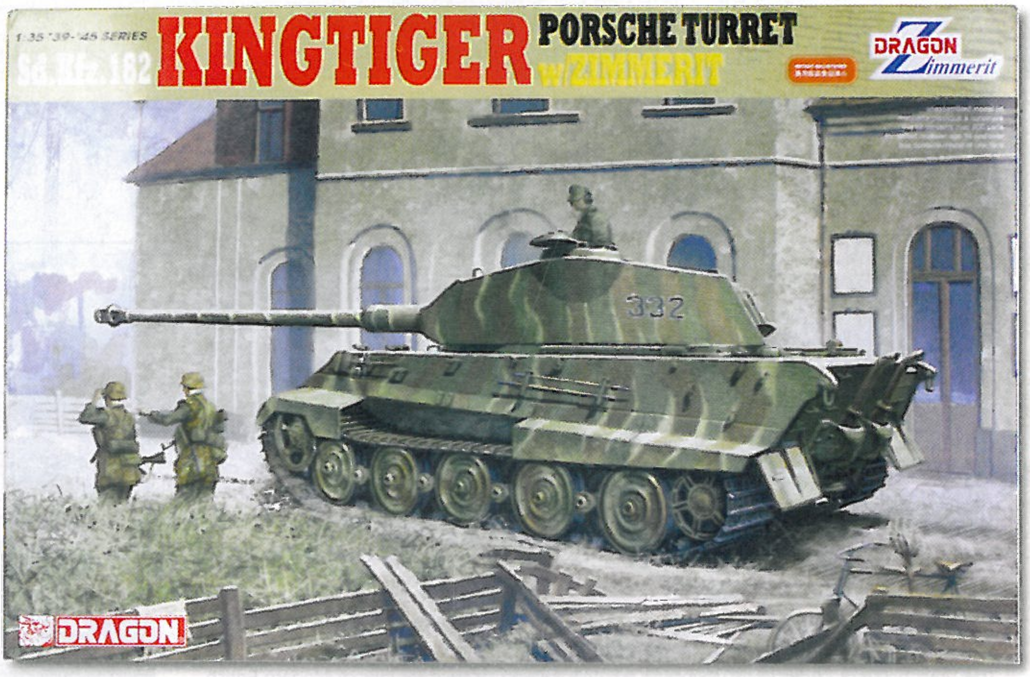
As the turret is open topped Dragon have provided an interior for the main body of the Heuschrecke, however there isn't any interior provided for the driver/radio operator's position so if you are wanting to show the turret removed then the empty area will be obvious. Also missing is the winch and pulley system seen on photos that allow the turret to be lifted out of position and placed on to its trailer, this is a shame as a huge diorama potential has been lost. The magic tracks provided are beautiful and have well moulded, thin, open guide horns but all the photos from the war and those of the surviving example show the vehicle fitted with closed guide horn tracks.

Apart from the already mentioned missing areas which shouldn't be an issue if you build the kit with the turret in its normal position, this is a great kit of yet another obscure German subject.

On a final note I was discussing the kit with a German friend who pointed out that Heuschrecke is actually a 'Locust' not 'Grasshopper' which is Grashupfer, oh well, what's in a name?

Highly recommended. ■





THE DOCTOR GETS A PASTING

Matt Edwards takes a look at Dragon's second King Tiger to feature moulded zimmerit.

Well it was only a matter of time before Dragon updated their premium edition of the Porsche Turreted Tiger II by giving it a zimmerit texture as they had done with their production turreted version.

Some in the modelling world have had a few niggles about the moulded-on zimmerit, but I think they have done a splendid job. Yes - you will have put some effort into representing a chipped and damaged look and some areas need care when attaching certain items around the side of the turret, but I think that is being a bit pedantic on a model of this class.

So what do you get for your 'money'? Plenty - that's the answer! The box is packed with goodies, 798 which I counted!

There are several sprues in grey styrene, into which have been moulded the main kit items. All of the details are fine and crisp as we have come to expect from this company.

You will also find two clear sprues, which contain the episcopes for the driver's and the bow gunner's station and the commander's cupola, two styles being supplied.

Situated within a recessed black tray is a turned aluminium barrel, pre-folded engine grilles, wire for the head light, four metal tow shackles and a metal aerial. Two lengths of braided wire are included to represent the usually supplied plastic tow cables; the use of these add extra realism, the ends of which are to be fitted into plastic eyes that have been slide moulded hollow.

There is no need to purchase an aftermarket brass detail set as the one contained in the kit is more than adequate.

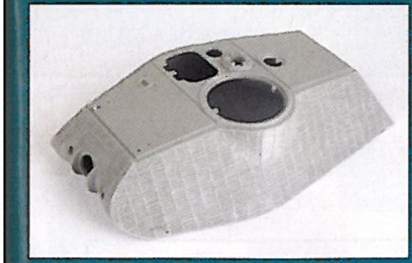
Incidentally, if you do not wish to use the tool clamps from this set, there is a set of tools with plastic clamps already moulded on. All of the weld seams are exquisitely well created and the designers at Dragon have really done their homework here.

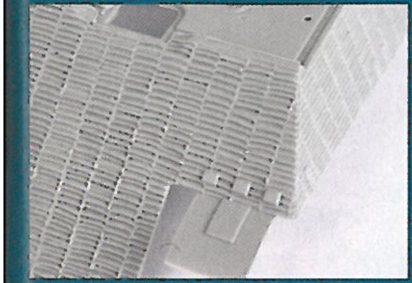
The instruction sheet is of the photograph type, which some people struggle to use, so careful study during the assembly sequence is required. The markings are printed in well defined colours by 'Cartograph' for six vehicles. Details for where the markings are to go and paint schemes are printed in colour on the last page of the instruction sheet.

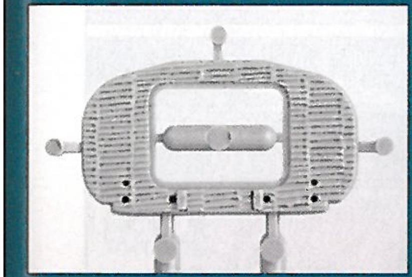
The kit scales up well to the references I have and the fit of parts is good. A little bit of filler is needed on some of the larger parts, where the zimmerit surfaces mate together. Having said this, it is a minor detail.

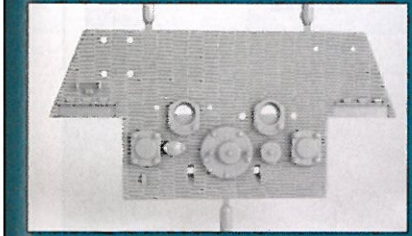
Dragon really have provided us with a kit that should keep you occupied for many hours, with good detail along with the added bonus giving very good value for money as a saving is made on any extras you might normally purchase.

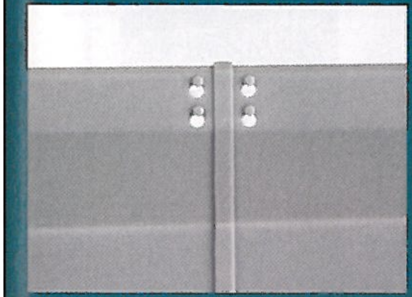
I am looking forward to the next vehicle that will be given the zimmerit treatment as this is a wonderful kit that I can highly recommend. ■

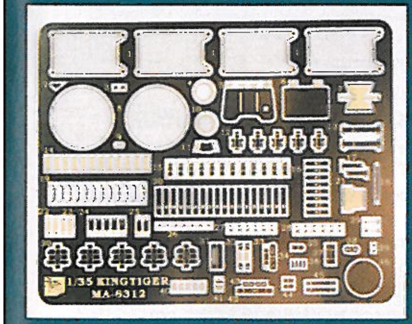


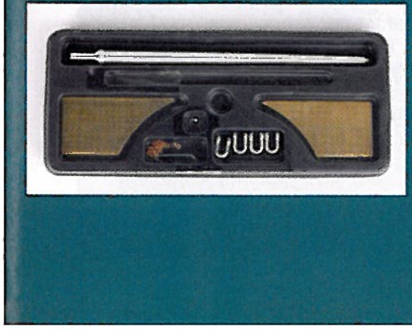




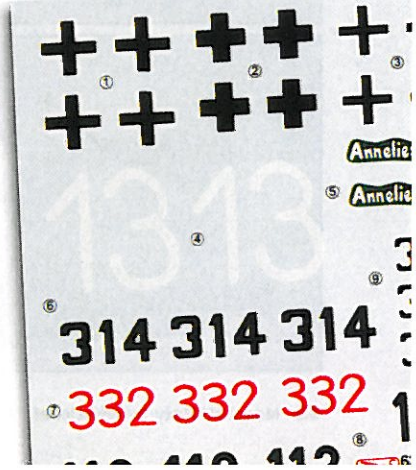




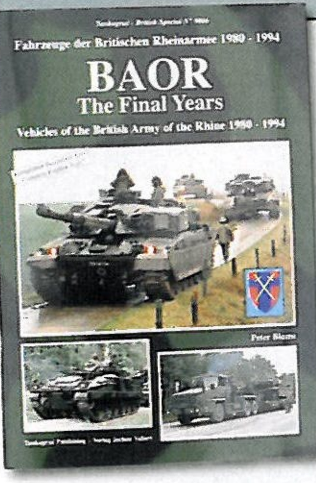


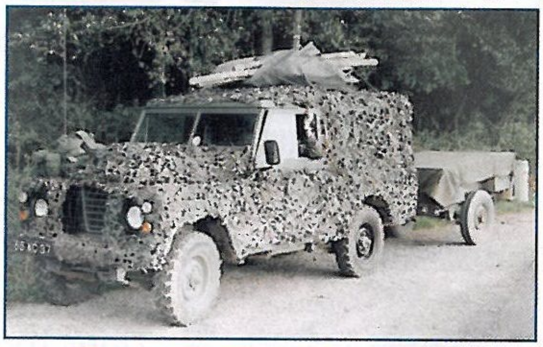


DRAGON
Magic Track



Book Reviews


Fahrzeuge der Britischen Rheinarmee 1980 - 1994
BAOR
The Final Years
Vehicles of the British Army of the Rhine 1980 - 1994
Peter Blume



BAOR THE FINAL YEARS

VEHICLES OF THE BRITISH ARMY OF THE RHINE 1980-1994

BRITISH SPECIAL NO. 9006 • TANKOGRAD PUBLISHING • 64 PAGE S/B

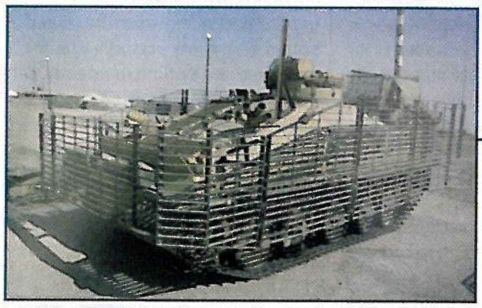
The latest batch of books from Tankograd are definitely a real treat for fans of Modern British armour. This edition covers the final years of the British Army of the Rhine (BAOR) the book as the title states covers the period from 1980 to 1994. As we have come to expect from this series, the first few pages cover the Order of Battle (ORBAT) and the final disbandment in 1994 with the closure of some 21 barracks.

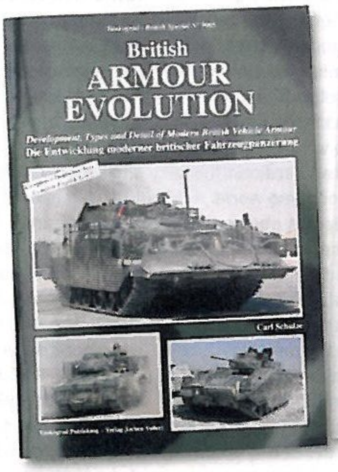
The book covers the whole spectrum of vehicles deployed by the army, from Chieftains and Challenger 1's to 432's and Warriors along with the numerous artillery, engineer, REME and various support vehicles.

All but one of the photos are in colour and all are a decent size and nice and clear. A couple of my favourite pictures include the series III Land Rover wearing a tailor made cam-net coat and the disabled Challenger 1 which has thrown a track being towed by a (CRARRV), the thrown track and side skirts have been piled high on the engine deck (perfect diorama material). Another invaluable reference source and highly recommended.

Available from www.bookworldws.com

The Editor




British
ARMOUR
EVOLUTION
Development, Types and Detail of Modern British Vehicle Armour
Die Entwicklung moderner britischer Fahrzeugpanzerung
Carl Schulze

BRITISH ARMOUR EVOLUTION

DEVELOPMENT, TYPES AND DETAIL OF MODERN BRITISH VEHICLE ARMOUR

BRITISH SPECIAL NO. 9005 • TANKOGRAD PUBLISHING • 64 PAGE S/B

As the title makes perfectly clear this Tankograd Special covers the development and use of additional armour added to British combat vehicles. The book starts with the use of 'Stillbrew' as used on the Chieftain Mk.10 and 11's as well as the development of the world famous Chobham armour by the Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment (RARDE) in Chertsey used on the Challenger 1 and 2. The book then moves on to cover the use of appliqué armour and finally the 'bar' armour which has been recently fitted to vehicles operating in Iraq and Afghanistan. This book is full of fascinating photos which are great not only for details but the weathering they suffer from while operating in such harsh environments and extreme heat. If for example you have any of the bar armour detail sets for the Warrior and Challenger 2 from Accurate Armour, then this book is an absolute must for inspiration. Highlights for me are the Warrior and Challenger recovery vehicles which look even meaner than usual when fitted with bar armour.

This could be an expensive month for fans of modern British armour, because this one is, in my opinion another 'must have'.

Available from www.bookworldws.com

The Editor

MINI COLOR SERIES
British Armoured Battle Group
Tim Matzold & Daniel Nowak

BRITISH ARMOURED BATTLE GROUP

MINI COLOR SERIES

TIM MATZOLD AND DANIEL NOWAK • CONCORD PUBLICATIONS

ISBN 962-361-135-8 • 52 PAGE S/B

Another great edition from Concord's Mini Colour Series, is this one on modern British armour. The book takes on the normal format of having a brief introduction including tables showing the order of battle and the equipment scalings for the 'Battle Group'. The rest of the book is packed with large, clear colour photos offering excellent reference material. Most of the photos are of vehicles on exercise in Poland and are painted in the standard green and black scheme, however there are some very nice photos of Scimitars, Warriors and Challenger 2's serving in Iraq including ones fitted with the latest slat/bar armour. All in all another excellent title, that's a real 'must have' for fans of modern British armour.

Available from www.worldwartwobooks.com

The Editor

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TANKOGRAD TECHNICAL MANUAL SERIES NO. 6011

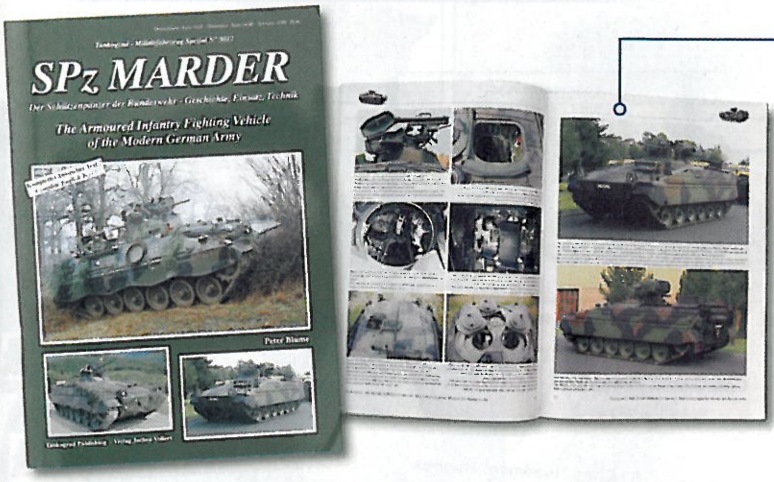
US WW11 DIAMOND T 4-TON 6X6

48 PAGES S/B

This is another welcome addition to Tankograd's Technical Series. Photographs of the vehicle in use are complemented with annotated drawings and images from technical manuals, scale plans and a couple of photos of a restored vehicle. There are also a number of great line drawings that show you how the vehicle was supposed to be set up for recoveries or in the case of the dump truck version how loading was to be performed. These drawings have great diorama potential and should inspire the modeller to create something different and special. The pages of text are split into both German and English so there is no need to flick through the book for the English text. Highly recommended.

Available from www.bookworldws.com

Graeme Carruthers


SPz MARDER
The Armoured Infantry Fighting Vehicle of the Modern German Army
Peter Blume

MILITARFAHRZEUG SPECIAL NO.5017

SPZ MARDER THE ARMOURED INFANTRY FIGHTING VEHICLE OF THE MODERN ARMY

TANKOGRAD PUBLISHING • 64 PAGE S/B

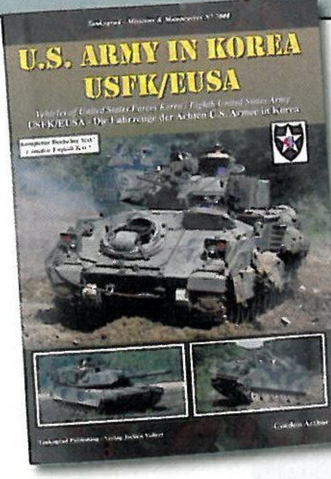
The Bundeswehr's Marder IFV has been for a long time one of those vehicles I have wanted to build, but have never actually got around to it, but thanks to this Tankograd Special it has really got me in the mood to build the Tamiya kit. This dual language publication offers a comprehensive history and the modernisation programmes including all the marks and sub marks (A1, A1A, A1A2 etc.). The book includes plenty of black and white, and colour photos of the vehicle in service, including peace keeping duties in Kosovo as well as a decent selection of detail shots of the 1A3 and 1A5.

Another very good edition to the Militarfährzeug Special range from Tankograd on a subject often overlooked.

Available from www.bookworldws.com

The Editor

Book Reviews



U.S. ARMY IN KOREA USFK/EUSA

TANKOGRAD MISSIONS AND MANOEUVRES NO. 7009

TANKOGRAD PUBLISHING • 64 PAGE S/B

Having recently watched the re-runs of Michael Palin's program 'Full Circle', where he visits all the countries that make up the rim of the Pacific ocean. In one episode he visits the border between North and South Korea and explains that officially the war has never actually ended and some what cynically explains the situation. So when this latest title from Tankograd turned up via Book World Whole Sales, I found it to be fascinating, as I really didn't appreciate how many US troops are stationed in South Korea and more amazingly how many North Korean forces are stationed above the 38th parallel. For instance the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) spends 20-25% of its GNP on the military and has the third largest army in the world with over one million personal and another 4.5 million reservists. Within 100 miles of the border it is estimated that some 700,000 North Korean troops 8,000 artillery pieces, 2,000 tanks and some 60,000 Special Forces are amassed and facing them are some 35,000 US troops!

The book contains an excellent selection of colour photos featuring the whole range of US vehicles deployed to protect this border and of particular interest are the Strykers which are deployed without 'slat armour', so if you want to model one on active duty and can't face the thought of adding one of the etched brass slat armour sets, why not pick one patrolling this vital border. This edition offers a fine study of modern U.S. vehicles and armour deployed along this often forgotten yet important border.

Available from www.bookworldws.com

The Editor

TOADMAN'S A34 COMET PHOTO DETAIL CD (CD#14)
TOADMAN'S M2A1 PHOTO DETAIL CD (CD#16)

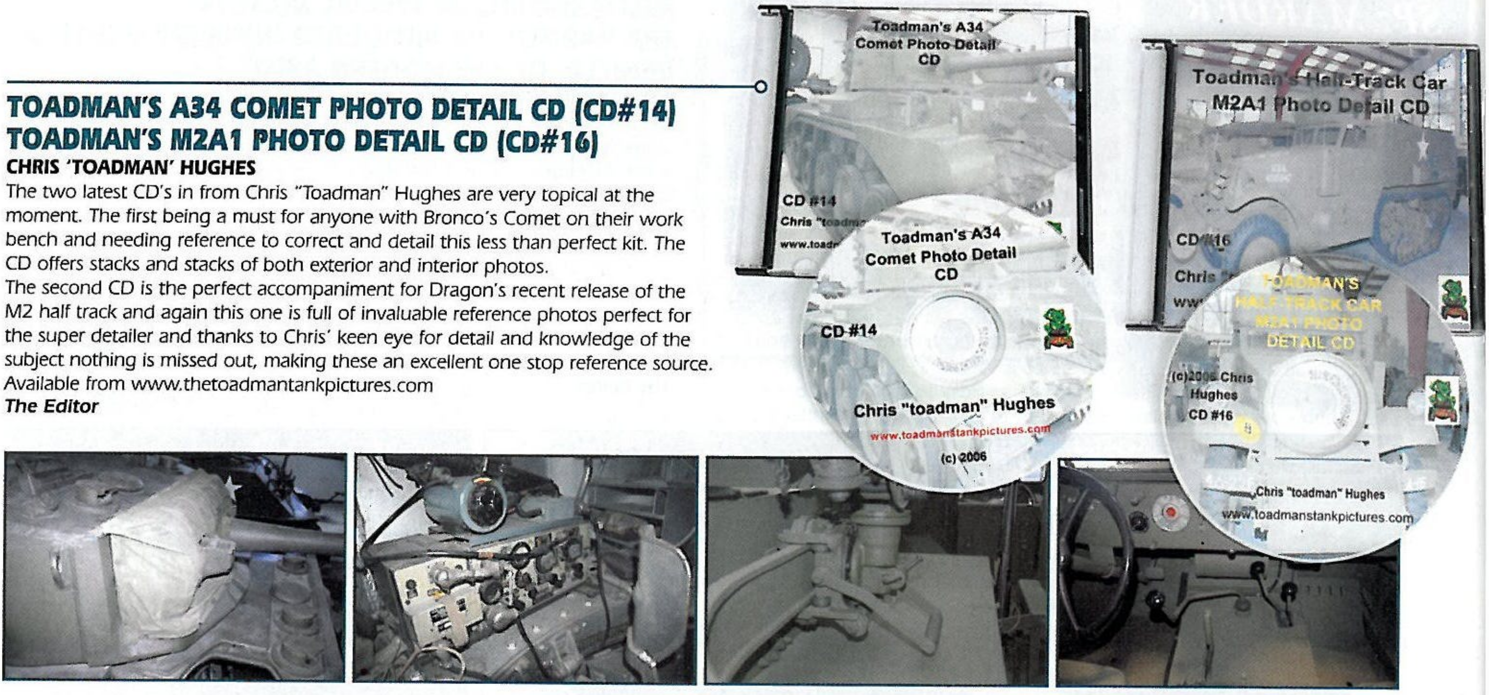
CHRIS 'TOADMAN' HUGHES

The two latest CD's in from Chris "Toadman" Hughes are very topical at the moment. The first being a must for anyone with Bronco's Comet on their work bench and needing reference to correct and detail this less than perfect kit. The CD offers stacks and stacks of both exterior and interior photos.

The second CD is the perfect accompaniment for Dragon's recent release of the M2 half track and again this one is full of invaluable reference photos perfect for the super detailer and thanks to Chris' keen eye for detail and knowledge of the subject nothing is missed out, making these an excellent one stop reference source.

Available from www.thetoadmantankpictures.com

The Editor


Toadman's A34 Comet Photo Detail CD
CD #14
Chris "toadman" Hughes
www.toadmanstankpictures.com
(c) 2006
Toadman's Half-Track Car M2A1 Photo Detail CD
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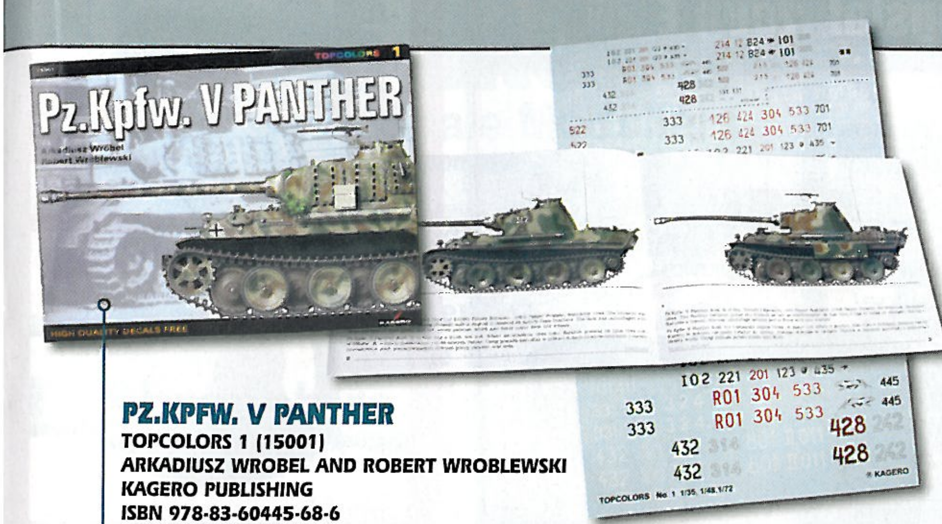
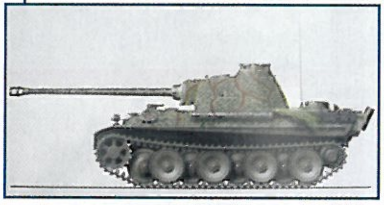


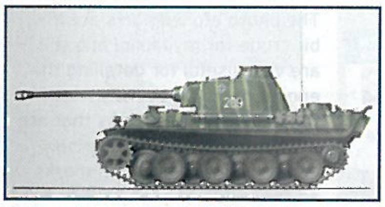
MILITÄR FAHRZEUG
SWABIAN LANCE 2007
T 34/85 der NVA
LEOPARD 2 A6

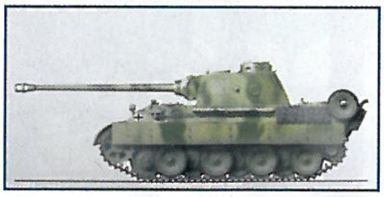
PZ.KPFW. V PANTHER

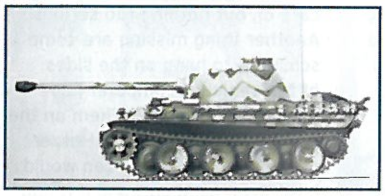
TOPCOLORS 1 (15001)
ARKADIUSZ WROBEL AND ROBERT WROBLEWSKI
KAGERO PUBLISHING
ISBN 978-83-60445-68-6
50 PAGE LANDSCAPE FORMAT S/B

The first of a new series from Kagero profiling the Pz.Kpfw V Panther and containing colour profiles detailing the many schemes the panther was finished in. The book printed in landscape format and comprising 49 pages. The first page is a brief history of the paint schemes and camouflage applied to the Panther. You then get to the bread and butter of the book which is the 47 full page colour profiles ranging from when the Panther was introduced in 1943 to the end of the war in 1945 and both on the Eastern and Western fronts. Each colour profile comes with a brief description in English and Polish. The profiles are nicely done and cover the plethora of schemes seen on Panthers from early Ausf A and D's up to the Ausf G's both early and late. This is a very inspiring book, not only if you are a Panther fan but also on page 30 if you are a German Armour fan in general. A couple of my favourites are on page 7, an Ausf G of the 1st SS Panzer Division in the Ardennes Offensive with the 'disc scheme' on the turret and an Ausf G of the 25th Panzer Grenadier Division in the East of Berlin in the distinctive striped camouflage. You also get a bonus decal sheet containing a lot of the markings and numbers depicted in the profiles in 1:35, 1:48 and 1:72 scales which is a nice touch. Overall a great little release from Kagero especially if you have a Panther in your stash and lets hope for more of the same.
Available from wwwworldwartwobooks.com
Jeff Adams









MILITAR FAHRZEUG 1/2008

TANKOGRAD PUBLISHING
SOFT BACK 62 PAGES

The first issue in Tankograd's magazine series this year continues to uphold the great tradition of this German language publication. The Leopard tank is the focus of a couple of articles in both its German A6 guise and also some welcome photos of the Canadian up-armoured C2 version currently serving in Afghanistan. The magazine doesn't just focus on modern vehicles but has articles on T34/85s in the former East Germany and a timely article on the WWII German Heuschrecke which will be of use to those of you who bought the recent Dragon kit. The main body of the magazine is in German but a couple of pages of English translation are provided at the back. Highly recommended.
Available from www.aviationbookcentre.com
Graeme Carruthers

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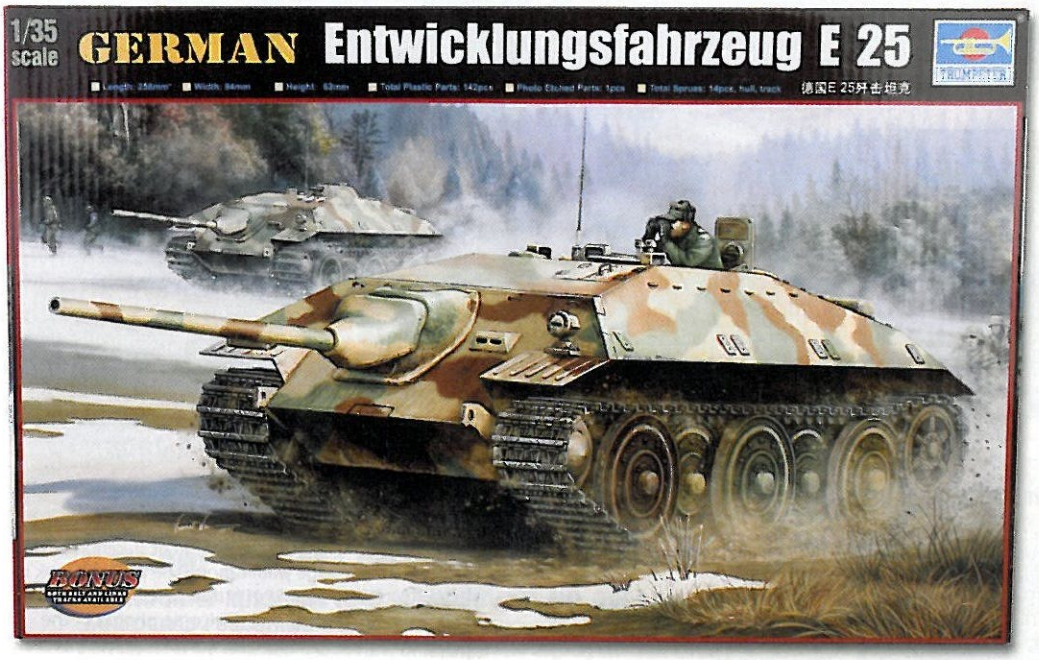
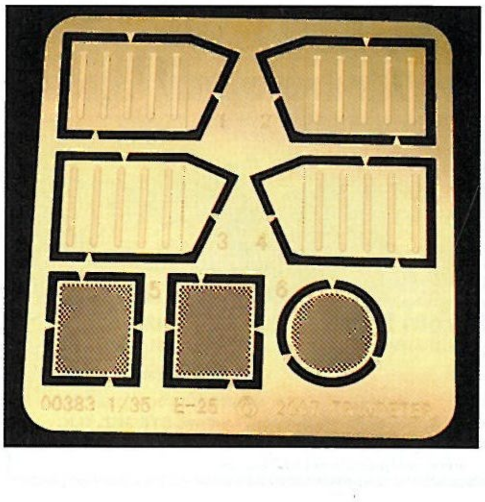

1/35 scale
GERMAN Entwicklungsfahrzeug E 25
Length: 258mm Width: 84mm Height: 63mm Total Plastic Parts: 142pcs Photo Etched Parts: 1pcs Total Sprues: 14pcs, hull, track
德国E 25歼击坦克
TRUMPETER
BONUS

E-MANIA

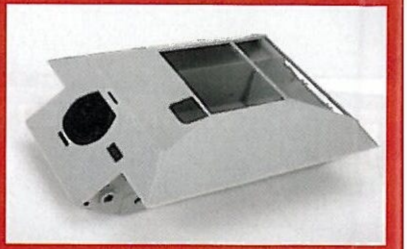
Jan Peters gives us the low down on Trumpeter's 'paper panzer', the E-25.

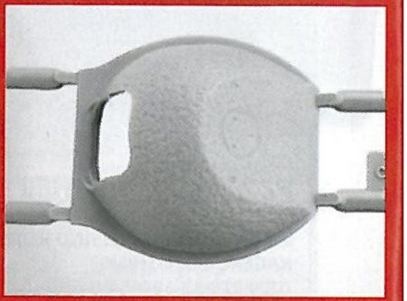
These are strange days for modellers, strange but good! Recently a lot of models appeared on the market, which we never would have dreamed of being released in injection moulded plastic. Dragon, Trumpeter and Tristar are putting one exotic release after another on the market, making the old expensive resin kits in your stash look crude, and devaluing them instantly. The paper panzers are very welcome, as this subject has long been neglected by the mainstream manufacturers, other than the E-100 and Maus that were done by Dragon many years ago. The release of the Trumpeter E-25, and the E-10 that followed it, have caused a real E-mania in the modelling community, the E-panzers are being built all over the world, and are all over the modelling websites.

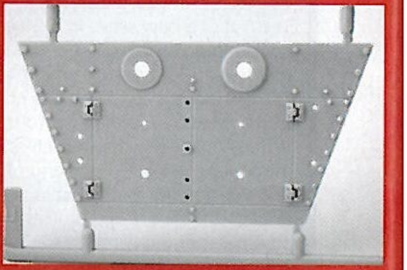
The Trumpeter E-25 is moulded in light grey styrene and comprises of 'just' 142 pieces. Tracks are included in both individual links and vinyl one piece belt type tracks. There is also a small etched fret included, holding parts for the fenders and engine deck grilles. Decals and a full colour painting and marking guide complete the package. The parts are cleanly moulded, with hardly any flash and show some very nice details. You are given a choice of two different engine decks, one with and one without a fan assembly. There is also a choice of superstructure roofs, with one option looking very much like the roof of the late Jagdpanzer IV and the other including a small AA turret, making it look very futuristic. The only strange thing is that it seems to be missing the aiming equipment.... Both of these options are clearly marked out in the instructions. The photo etched parts are a bit crude for my liking, but still are very useful for detailing the engine deck. I especially liked the individual track links that are provided, they are very crisply done, with just some pin-marks on the inside of each links to take care of, but nothing too serious. Another thing missing are some schürzen to hang on the sides of the vehicle. Trumpeter have moulded brackets for them on the hull, and I suspect some Hetzer or Panther style schürzen would have been used on them if it had ever reached production.

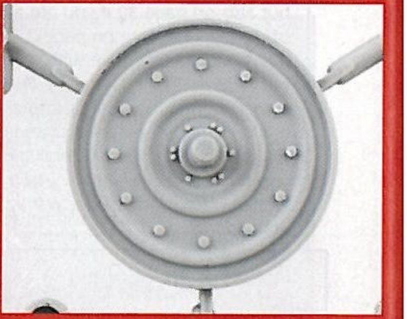


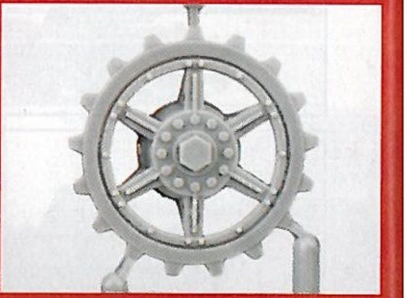
All in all, this is a very nice kit, and it should build up into a nice, somewhat exotic vehicle. The best part of course being that this is a paper panzer, and as there is no reference to how it would have looked you can let your imagination run free. Almost anything goes when it comes to painting and finishing this model, making it a refreshing break from intensive detailed projects. So if you are in need of such a break, or you want to build something out of the ordinary, then this is one kit to look out for, highly recommended! ■

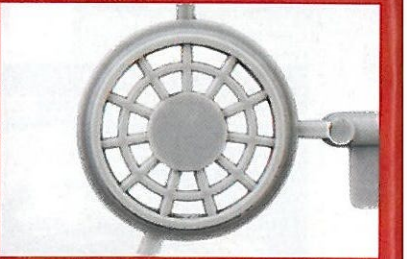


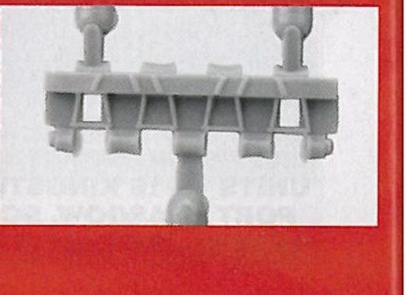












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The views expressed are not necessarily those of the editor or publisher. Letters may be edited for publication.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR

I Can't believe how quickly the time went during our visit to the Nuremberg Toy Fair, there is so much to see and photograph and people to speak to, both traders and visitors. It's a shame we only had two days to fit everything in, to be honest I could have done with at least another day as the show is so large it's bewildering. It was great to be able to say hello in person to the people behind the companies, who graciously send their products in for review and in no small way have made this magazine such a success.

Lastly I would like to say a special thank you to Richard Poulsen and the other guys from Tamiya America who made our Saturday evening such an enjoyable, and memorable one!

See you again on April 3rd!

Spud

John 'Spud' Murphy

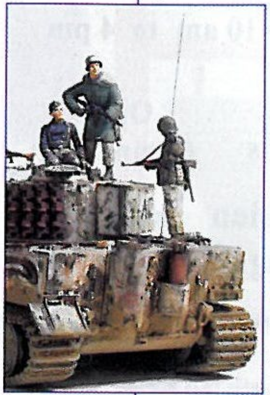
IT'S ALL IN THE TITLE

I've noticed that you have been receiving quite a few comments in the letters page and I'm sure you receive more privately about the inclusion of planes in MMI and I must say I disagree with these people. Many different aircraft have been used by the Armies of the world and they play just as important a role as the tanks or trucks do. The magazine is called Model Military International, not Model Tanks International. Army aircraft have every right to be included. A US Navy jet fighter would be another story...

Jack Foster

Ed says; Thanks for the words of support Jack, as you have pointed out we are a military modelling magazine and so are well within our rights to put topics in other than just vehicles and the odd figure. I have personally tried to address this by building a couple of helicopters, as well as featuring some more in the forthcoming editions. We would also like to include landing craft and as you have already suggested, certain aircraft operated by armies from around the world such as the Grasshopper we reviewed back in issue 17 Which incidentally was the article that started all the controversy about whether we should include aircraft.

BEING INSPIRED



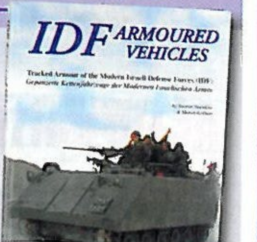
I just wanted to say thank you for a great mag. Unlike most of your readers (or at least it seems so), I am completely new to the hobby. I have always been interested in WWII history and military stuff in general so two years ago I picked up a Tamiya Pz.Kpfw IV at my local store and started building armed with only three jars of Humbrol enamel and two brushes. To be honest it looked rubbish by the time I was done with it. However I was hooked by this hobby. Sometime later I was browsing the magazine stand in a street corner shop and my eyes fell on a mag sporting a KV-1 Ekranami and a Flakpanzer 38(t) on the cover. I just had to buy it. Since then I have yet to miss out on a single copy of this little gem that you are supplying me with. All the helpful tips and techniques I have learned just by reading your (and your sister publication TMMI) have really helped me develop my modelling skills. A while ago I finished my fourth ever model, an AFV-Club Tiger I ausf.E, and decided to give it a bit of life by adding some figures. Once again I was helped more than a little by MMI (I have to admit that I took a great deal of inspiration from the article on Mr. Phil Stutcinskas' panzer IV). I was very pleased with the end result and decided to take some pictures of it. Once again. Thank you very much!

David Sidén
Sweden.

Ed says; I'm really pleased to hear that you have found the tips and techniques within MMI to be helpful and has spurred you on to keep building even if you were not happy with your first model.

I know Phil will be pleased that your took inspiration from his stunning Panzer IV and were able to incorporate some of the techniques he has described into your Tiger I. Keep up the good work David and I hope the tips and techniques will be of use for a long time to come.

RECOMMENDED READING



IDF ARMOURED VEHICLES

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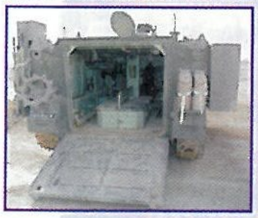


I know I have recommended a few books on Israeli armour over the past months, well the reason is I have some major IDF vehicle builds to get stuck into, but I keep putting them off. This is partly due to the fact that none are going to be easy or quick to finish, I have therefore made a point of picking up a book on IDF vehicles anytime I get the chance in order to get the modelling juices flowing and get me past the dread of making all those hideous ball and chains that have to hang from the turret rear of Legend's awesome Merkava 4 multimedia kit.

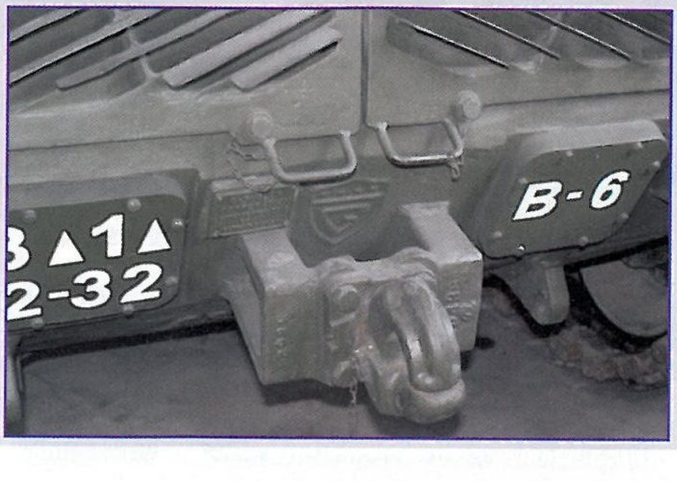
I digress, the book has been out for a while, but I have only recently obtained a copy from Book World Whole Sales. The book is very similar in format to the excellent Tankograd title on the Merkava family, but now we are treated to a book crammed full of bright clear full colour photos of everything from M113's to Pumas and Achzarits to MBT's and even plant equipment such as the super sinister looking D9 armoured bulldozers. If you have any interest in modern IDF military vehicles then this book should definitely form the centre piece of ones reference. Available from *www.bookworldws.com*

RANDOM REFERENCE!

CASTING MARKS

A perfect use for the excellent casting and foundry symbols from Archer Fine Transfers which we reviewed back in issue 19. This foundry mark is found on an a U.S. Army M48A3 now residing in the French armour museum at Saumur.

Apart from the foundry mark tucked in behind the rear towing pintles there is also the Chrysler Corporation placard to the left.



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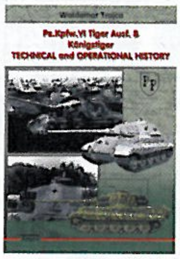

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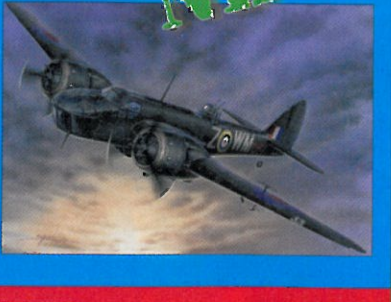

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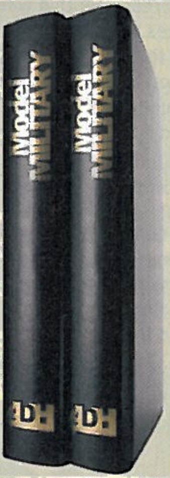


1:35 '39-'45 SERIES
Flakpanzer 38(t) Sd.Kfz.140 auf (Sf) Ausf.L "Gepard"
Smart Kit
13
DRAGON

THE "CHEETAH"

Darren Thompson reluctantly previews Dragon's new release of a vehicle he has been scratchbuilding for the last couple of years.

This is the latest in what hopefully will be a long line of Dragon 38(t) variants and this time it's one of my personal favourites. The Flakpanzer 38(t) has been offered in 1:35 before, both as a full resin kit and, more recently in injection moulded plastic from Alan. This new Dragon offering is thankfully leagues ahead of them both.

As you'd expect, much of the hull and running gear with the exception of a new set of roadwheels are taken from Dragon's previous 38(t) releases, namely, the 38(t) Ausf. G and the Aufklarungspanzer 38(t), with the addition of a new three-sided tub and separate rear panel. The upper hull is made up from impressively thin walls, which gives a really good scale effect, no thinning of the upper edges here, the drop down sides are equally thin and with the fine bolt and rivet detail included, you'd be hard pushed to improve on this. The engine deck panels are also separate parts, allowing them to be shown open and this time there is a full engine and radiator assembly included. As well as the engine, a driver's compartment and transmission are also included, both of which can be viewed, to a limited extent, through the kit's open hatches.

There's also a lot going on in the rear fighting compartment, the main gun pedestal is very well handled, being a multi-part assembly, with all lower ammo stowage compartments being open and of full depth, just like the real vehicle. A pair of radios grace the front of the compartment, with multiple parts for the racks, transformers, junction boxes and the radios themselves, making for some excellent detail definition.

A spare barrel box is included, with the spare barrels moulded in-situ, should you wish to display the box open and there are additional ammo racks, crew seats and stowed MP40's to complete the look.

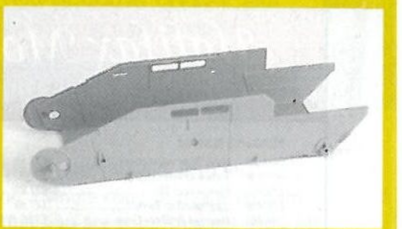
On the outside, Dragon have supplied a full complement of tools, with separate etched clips, which all mount on a finely moulded pair of fenders.

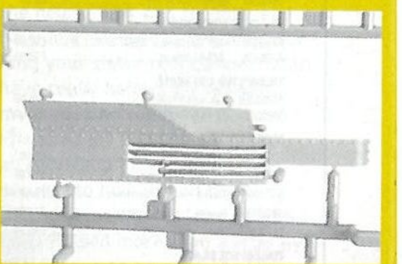
The 2cm Flak 38 is also one of Dragon's previous releases and is a nice little model in itself. It's not strictly speaking, the correct version for the Flakpanzer 38(t), as all the images I have seen show a later configuration of the gun fitted. Unfortunately Dragon haven't included all these late features, such as the embossed hand wheels and late gun sight, so if these things matter to you, you will have to source them elsewhere, or do a little scratchbuilding. As before, the elevation comes in the way of four preset options, which you have to choose at the start and, once built, can't be changed. Etched brass is again included, for many of the small hand-wheels, the gunners' armoured shield and the spent shell basket.

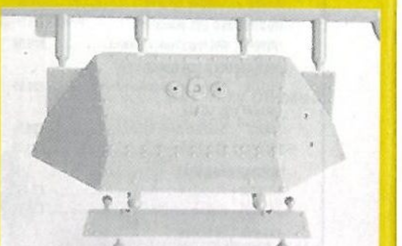
Another oversight on Dragon's side is not to include the solid drive sprockets, without the lightening holes. These are seen on all the images of this vehicle that I have seen to date, with the exception of the early factory shots. Even the options given in the decal sheet have this feature! There are other kits out there that have these solid sprockets, as well as aftermarket ones, so it's not a huge thing to change them, but I think they really should have been included.

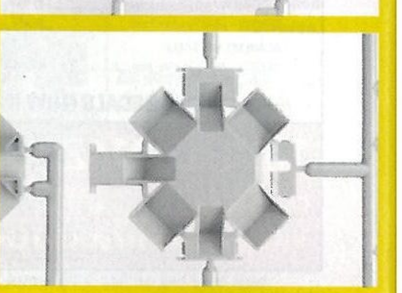
Decal options are given for six vehicles, all serving in France, with a variety of camouflage schemes, the most striking being the splinter style scheme of the 21.Pz.Div. vehicle, in Normandy.

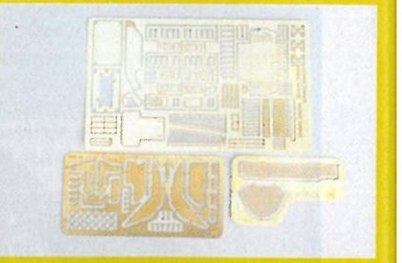
With the exception of these minor niggles, this should make up into an excellent representation of this strangely handsome little vehicle and with a little work, could be a real stunner. ■











Diary Dates

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April 5th - 6th
The annual Swedish Nationals will be held at Skytteholmsskolan, Ankdammsgatan 14-16, Solna. Open for members as well as non -IPMS members.
12.00-16.00 Sat, 10.00-16.00 Sun.
Contact: show manager Rickard Malmborg +46 70 782 65 03
ipmsopen@ipmsstockholm.org, or www.ipmsstockholm.org/open

April 6th
Shropshire Scale Modellers in association with RAF Cosford present the Shropshire Model Show to be held at the RAF Museum at Cosford. Trade stands, Club displays and Open Competition. Free admission and parking. Contact: Gary Stevens gary473@btinternet.com

April 12th - 13th
The Footman James 1st South West Model Engineering, Model Making and Hobbies Exhibition.
The Royal Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet, Somerset BA4 6QN.
Open: 9.30am – 5.30pm
Admission: £8 Adults, £7 Concessions (senior citizens, registered disabled and full time students). Accompanied children under 16 are free.
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April 13th
Moveleo Leopoldsburg will be presenting Model Force '08 at the "St-Michiel" school complex, Diestersteenweg 13, in the centre of Leopoldburg, Belgium.
Open: 10.00 - 17:00
Featuring club displays, traders, kid's corner, an open modelling contest and food and refreshments. Entrance is free.
Information: www.moveleo.be or modelforce@moveleo.be

April 19th
Darlington Military Modelling Society present its annual model show - Sword & Lance 08
Open: 10.00 to 4.30pm
Now fully refurbished Darlington Arts Centre, Vane Terrace, Darlington, Co Durham. In conjunction with its popular open competition, there will also be in attendance numerous specialist trade stalls and model displays from some of the countries premier modellers and model clubs, including multi Euro Militaire gold medal winner Phil Stutcinkas and The Basement internet modelling forum. Also for 2008 we are please to announce by kind sponsorship from the world famous Airbrush Company (www.airbrushes.com), a first prize in a raffle draw to be held on the day will be a high quality Iwata airbrush worth over £100.00. Refreshments and catering facilities are available at the venue. Which is in easy reach of Darlington town centre.
Contact:
Colin Holmes on 01325 489801
colin.holmes@whsmithnet.co.uk

April 20th
East Midlands Model Show 2008.
The Leisure Centre, Hinkley, Lecs.
£4.00 adults, £2.50 Children and OAPs. Open: 10am - 4.30pm
Many traders and club displays, refreshments and bar available, free carparking, easy disabled access and large open competition.
Contact: Simon Mepstead
01455 230952 (shop hrs).

April 26th
Plymouth Model Exhibition will be held at the Plymouth Guild Hall, Royal Parade, Plymouth.
Open: 10 - 4.30. Over 30 Clubs and Traders attending.
Refreshments available all day.
Contact:
Dave Watson 01752 518287
spotandjoe@blueyonder.co.uk

May 3rd
Southdowns Model Group annual show and open competition.
The Parish Hall, Lancing, West Sussex, BN15 8AJ.
Open: 10.30am to 4.00pm.
Contact:
Craig Wells 01273 279635
craig.wells4@ntlworld.com

May 3rd - 4th
The Illawarra Plastic modellers Association (IPMA) will be holding the 2008 Illawarra Scale Model Expo incorporating the NSW Scale Model Competition. This will be held as usual at the Koonawarra Community Centre, Fowlers Road Dapto (South of Wollongong) N.S.W. Australia.
Information: http://ipma.hobbyvista.com/
Contact: Paul Boger 0423108993
sea.eagle@optusnet.com.au

May 4th
5th Modellbaufreunde Siegen Model Show will be held at Festhalle, Wilnsdorf, Germany.
info@modellbaufreunde-siegen.de
www.modellbaufreunde-siegen.de

May 24th
Torbay Military Modelling society and Torbay IPMS will be holding their 37th annual model show Torquay Town Hall, Castle Circus, Torquay, TQ1 3DR
Open to public: 10am to 4pm
Entry: adults £2.00. Children and senior citizens £1.00
Visit: www.torbay-ipms.org.uk

May 24th - 25th
Scale ACT '08. A two day model show at The Harmonie German Club, 49 Jerrabomberra Avenue, Narrabundah, Canberra, Australian Capital Territory (ACT), AUSTRALIA
http://www.actsms.asn.au
Contact:
Mike Grieve (+61) 2 6291 1900

June 15th
The Cambridge Branch of the Miniature AFV Association are pleased to announce that they will be hosting the MAFVA Nationals 2008 at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford.
Open: 10.00am
Information: www.mafva.net or send a large SSAE to the organiser, Paul Middleton, 39 The Leas, Baldock, Herts, SG7 6HZ.

June 28th
Amay Modèles Club organizes its 17th Modelling Day (competition, exhibition and swap) at the IPES Huy, 6 Avenue Delchambre, B-4500 Huy (Belgium).
Contact: Michel Calluy,
13 Thier du Moulin, B-4530 Villers-le-Bouillet (B)
Tel : 00 32 85231086
michel.calluy@skynet.be
http://www.amaymodelesclub.org

June 28th - 29th
The Model Expo 2008 and the Australian Open Plastic and Scale Modelling Championships will be held at the Entertainment Centre, Sandown Racecourse, Princes Highway, Springvale, Melbourne, Victoria.
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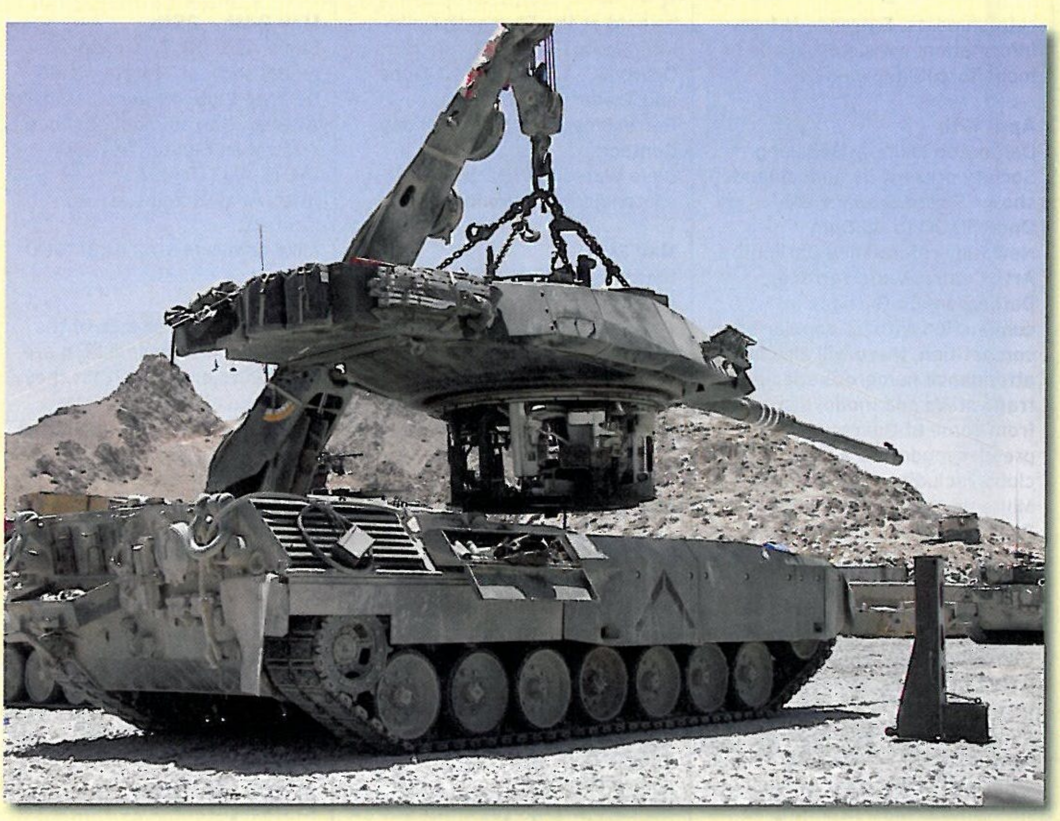


A Leopard C2 from 3 Troop, 'A' Squadron gets its turret pulled by a Taurus ARV in May 2007.

BATTLE GROUP BACKBONE

Jason Bobrowich offers us the latest instalment on the Canadian Army's Leopard tanks deployed in Afghanistan.

As the temperature rose in the spring of 2007 in the Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, so did the intensity of combat team and battle group operations involving Canadian troops.

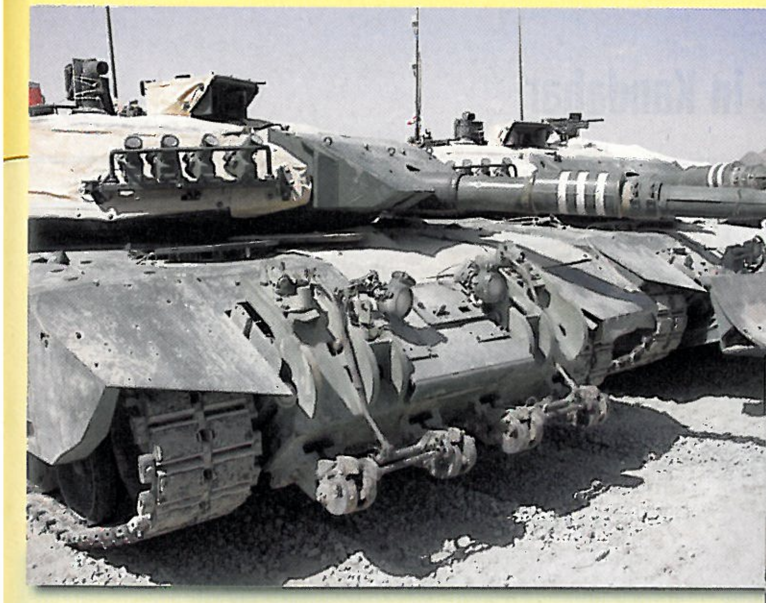
Ground combat brought the Canadian crews in their Leopards face to face with the Taliban both in close quarter engagements and the never ending threat from Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and anti-tank mines.

The Squadron faced not only the Taliban forces but also the ever-increasing temperature during the spring and summer that took its toll not only on the Leopard tanks but also on their crews. Temperatures reached an unbearable 60 degrees Celsius in the tanks during summer combat missions, yet the crews showed extreme perseverance battling on through this extreme heat.

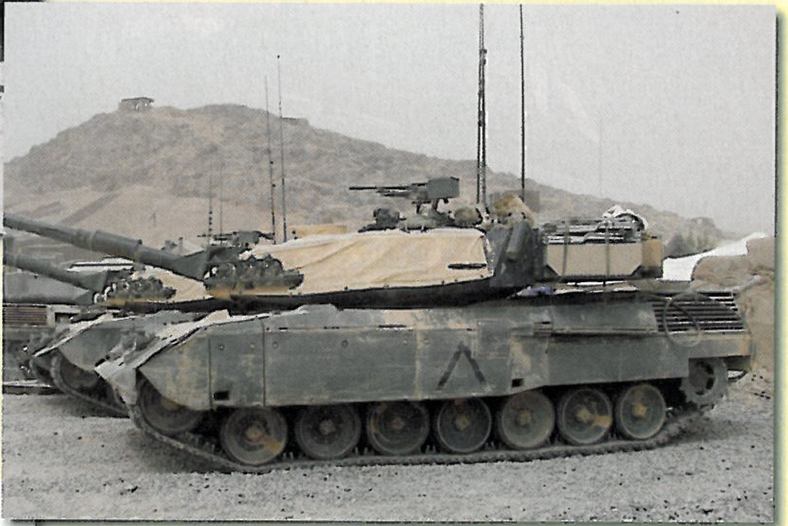
Several stopgap solutions to combat the effects from the heat on the crews and tanks were introduced including tan coloured thermal cooling blankets made of a plastic and nylon material which were attached to the turret and hull in order to reflect heat away from the tank. A variety of coloured civilian camping coolers were also issued to the tank crews to keep liquids a bit cooler, turning the tanks into even more of a gypsy battle wagon with an ever increasing amount of kit attached to the turret.

The 'A' Squadron tank crews fought hard during their tour and the tanks continued to battle on. Main gun engagements occurred at ranges from as short as 40 feet and out to 1500 metres with 105mm High Explosive Squash Head (HESH) rounds. A number of tanks struck IEDs, anti-tank mines and even the local Afghan lorries. These were affectionately known as 'Jingly trucks', so named because of their garish paint schemes and the amount of trinkets and tassels hanging from them. All of these elements contributed to suspension, MEXAS armour module, main gun barrel, and mine plough damage. A tank mounting a mine plough was struck on the glacis plate by a Taliban 82mm rocket and a 107mm rocket hit a Badger AEV. There was no hull penetration but as a result all tanks mounting ploughs, dozer blades, or mine rollers received additional armour on the glacis plate.

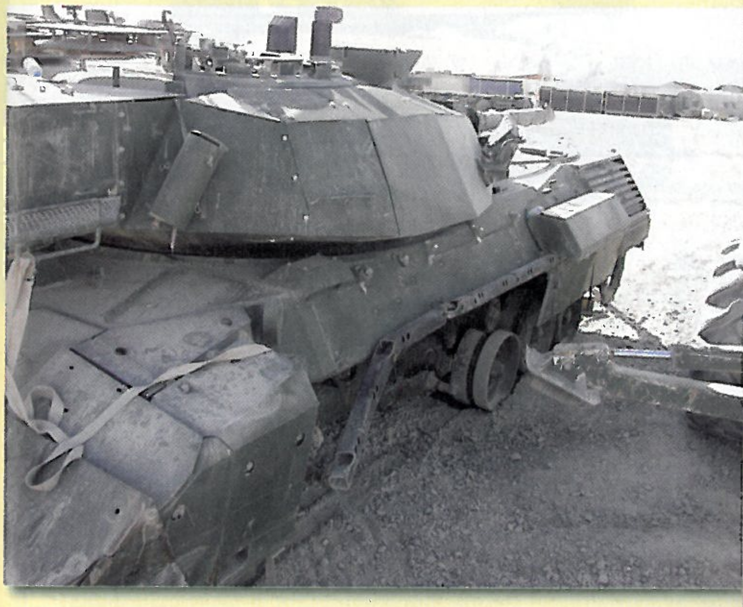
Not without very important mention is the use of the two Leopard ARVs (Armoured Recovery Vehicles) and the four Badger AEVs (Armoured Engineer Vehicles). These vehicles proved their worth in combat operations,



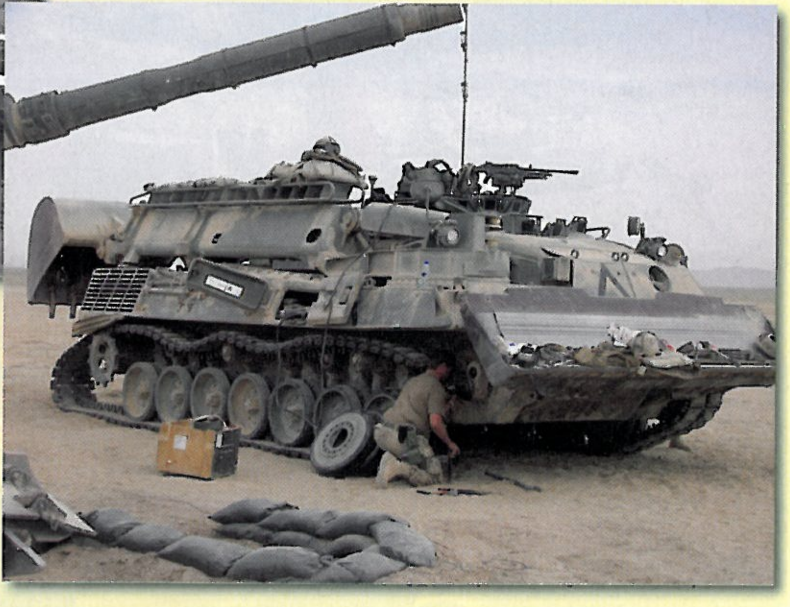
Call sign 13A in August 2007 mounting the mine roller attachments and the thermal cooling blanket. Note that additional armour has been mounted between the headlights on the mine roller attachment.



Call sign 19, the Squadron Commander's Leopard, showing signs of repairs to the MEXAS hull armour. The dented MEXAS and welded square to the right of the chevron was the result of a collision with a 'Jingle truck' on Highway 1.



The damaged caused to call sign 19B by an anti tank mine strike is clearly visible in this photo taken in June 2007. Damage was caused to the suspension, MEXAS, and the main gun barrel. Note how the MEXAS armour support has become bent and twisted.



A Combat Engineer Badger AEV undergoes vital track maintenance during a halt during an operation. The extensive use of the Badger AEV required the crews to continually ensure the vehicles were operating at peak performance at all times. Note the wear and tear on the blade from constant use.

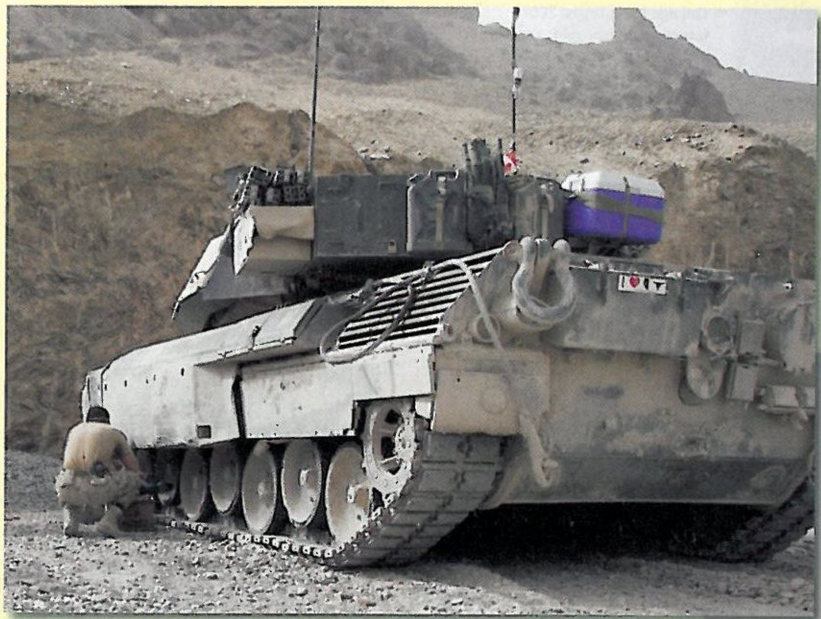
recovering damaged tanks under fire and clearing obstacles for both the armour and Infantry. The Badgers operated up front with the lead tanks. The Badgers sustained small arms fire during numerous operations and one was even hit by a Taliban 107mm rocket on the excavator arm while at a Forward Operating Base. More than once the Badgers were used in the recovery role for disabled tanks.

'C' Squadron, Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) mounted in their new Leopard 2A6Ms relieved 'A' Squadron in September 2007. The battle proven Leopard C2 MEXAS still fights beside the Leopard 2A6M providing critical support with the dozer blades, mine ploughs, and mine rollers. The Leopard 2A6M has engaged the enemy with the massive firepower of the 120mm very effectively. The Canadian tank crews in the Leopard C2's and the Leopard 2A6M now fight side by side as the backbone of the battle group in an era that not too long ago was thought by some to be obsolete for tanks. The Canadian tank crews have proven very worthy of praise and have shown the devastating results of having tanks on the battlefield to the enemy. ■

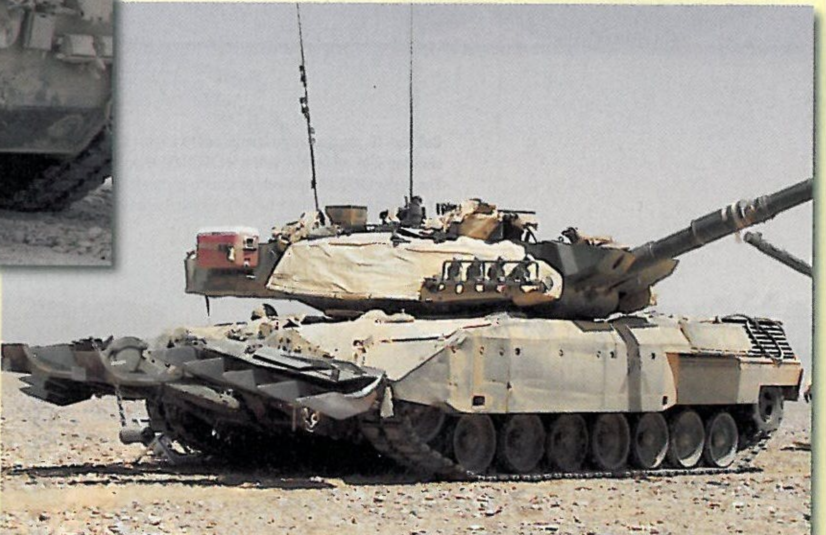
Acknowledgements

Thanks to Sergeant Anthony Sewards of 'A' Squadron, Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) for providing me with the photos and for a job well done commanding the Leopard C2 MEXAS call sign 12B during his second tour in Afghanistan.

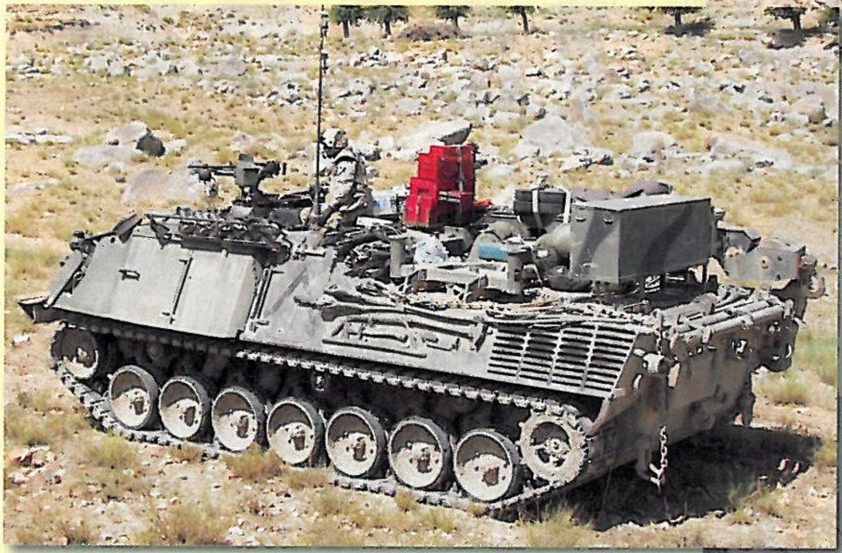
References - Big cats in Kandahar



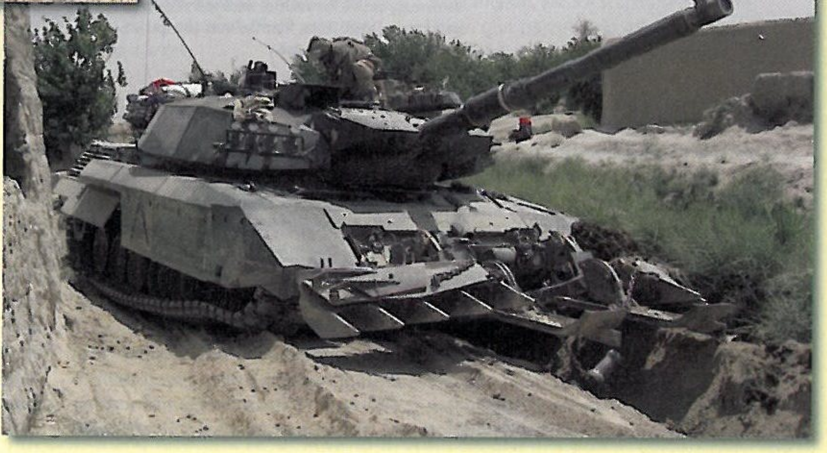
◀ Call sign 12B's crew attend to the road wheels at a Forward Operating Base. The tan painted box mounted on the left side of the turret storage bins contains the cooling unit for the crew cooling system. This cooling unit box was damaged after the tank was backed into a house during an operation. Note the collapsible combat stretcher stowed between the jerry cans and the blue civilian pattern cooler.



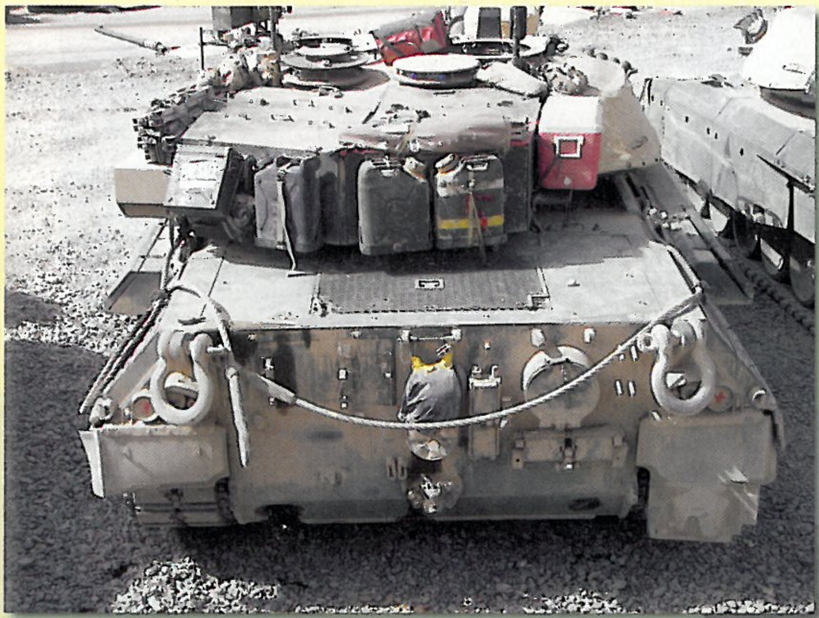
Mounting a mine plough call sign 12C looks well-used and very dusty in August 2007. This tank was hit by a Taliban 82mm rocket on the frontal armour during a combat mission. ▶



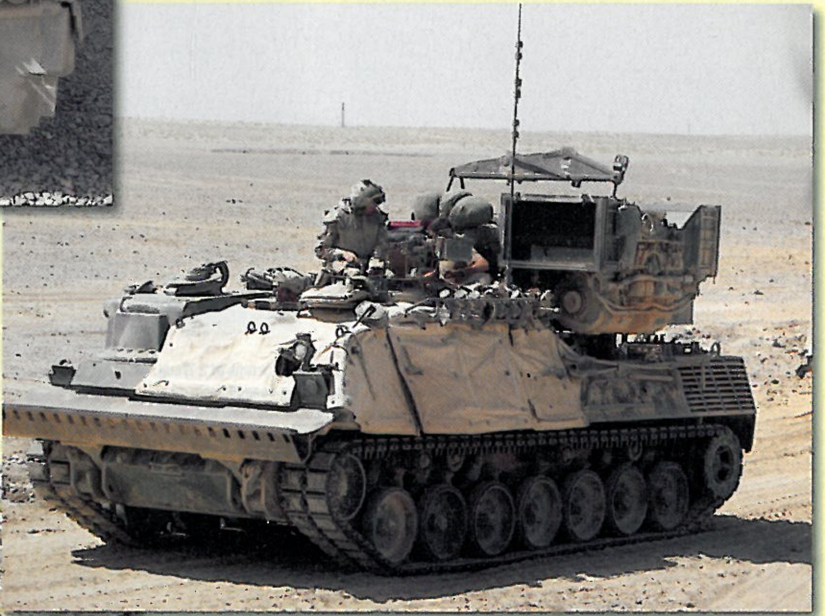
◀ Call sign 18E, a Taurus ARV, in June 2007 in support of the Leopard Squadron during an operation. Visible is the frontal MEXAS armour and a large variety of toolboxes, crew kit, and chains on the back deck.



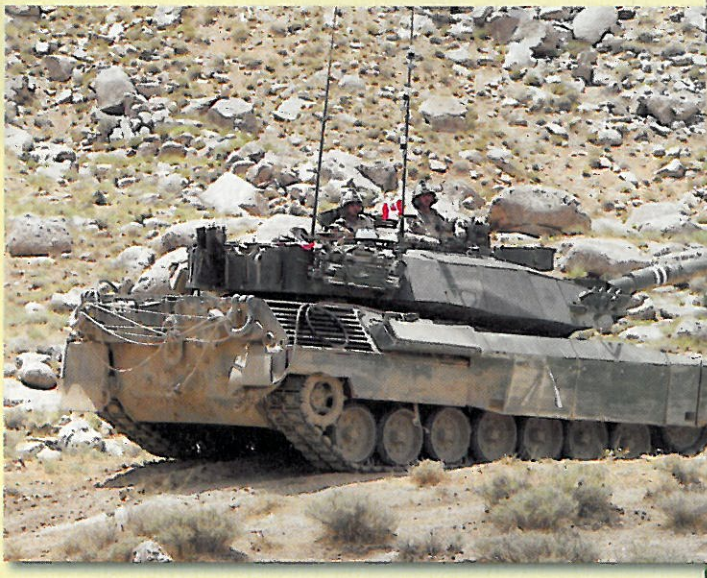
Call sign 11C mounting a mine plough sits idle while temporarily disabled by a thrown right track during a clearing operation in a village in May 2007. ▶



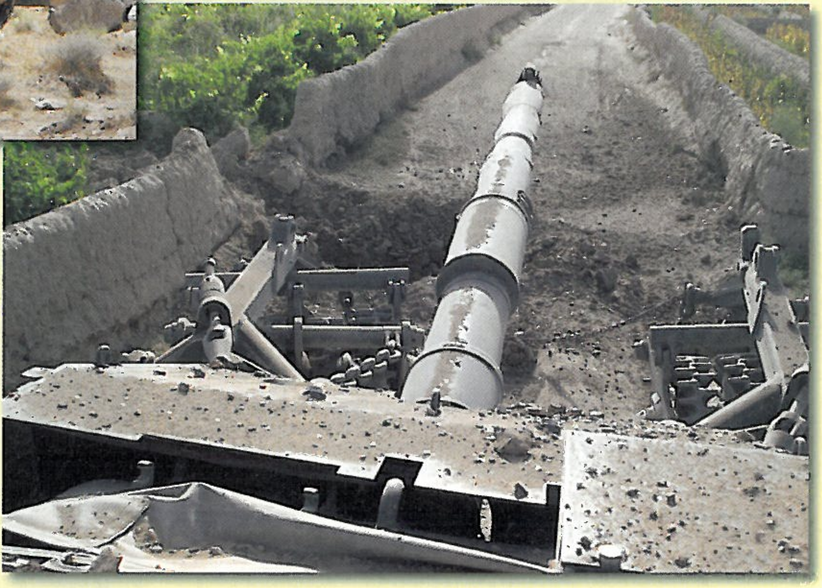
The upper rear deck of call sign 11 while stopped at a Forward Operating Base. Note that the rear hull driver's tool bin has been ripped off and the variety of kit carried on the turret. This tank had an IED strike on August 5, 2007 and sustained minor damage but no injuries to the crew.



The thermal cooling blanket covered Taurus ARV, call sign 18E, is seen following up the tank Squadron in August 2007. Attached to the rear deck is a complete Leopard 1 power pack. The Taurus has a C6 machine gun in a ball mount on the left front and another mounted on the crew commander's hatch ring.

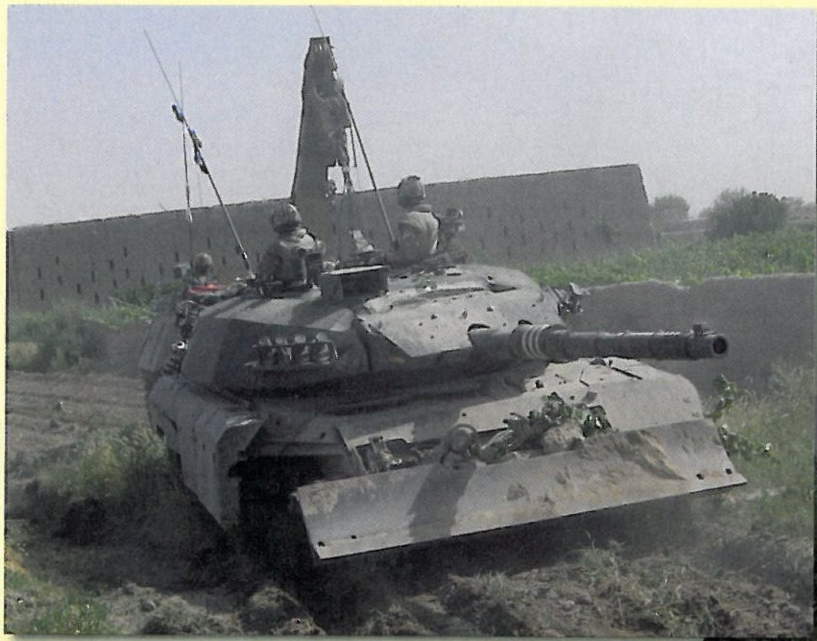


Mounting a dozer blade, call sign 12B, lead a combat team in June 2007 into hilly and rocky terrain. The tank carries the LAV 3 tow cable on the rear hull for quick access during recovery operations.

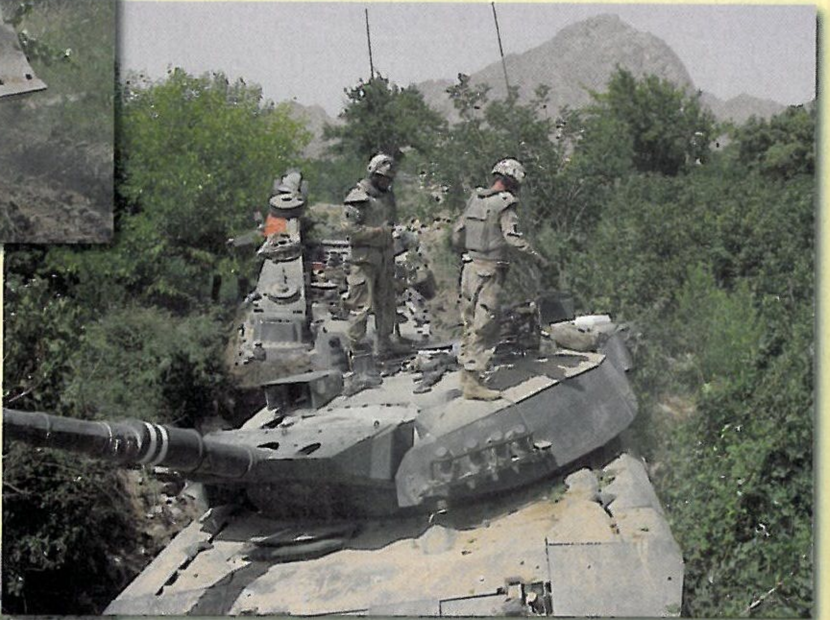


A crew member's view from the turret of a mine roller mounting Leopard C1 after detonating an anti-tank mine or IED in February 2007. Note the crater and the dirt thrown up on the mine rollers, barrel, and mantlet.

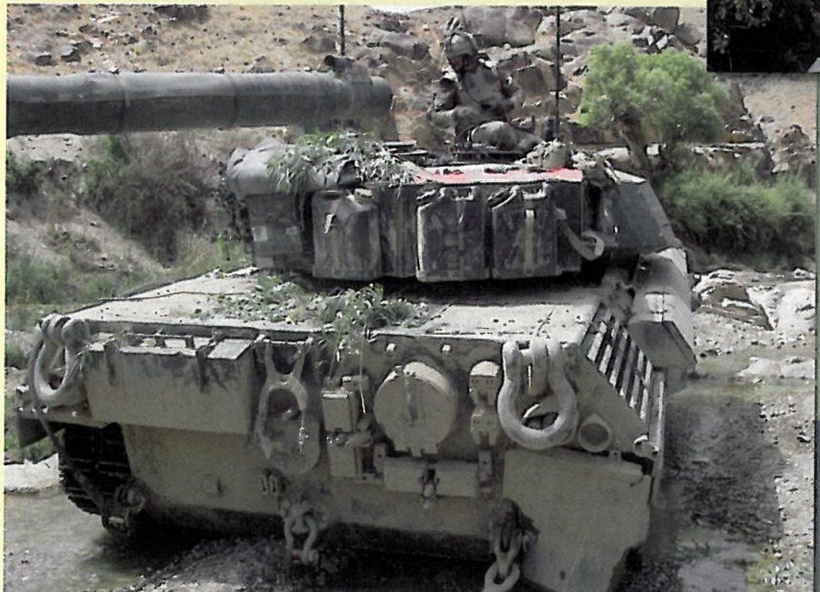
References - Big cats in Kandahar



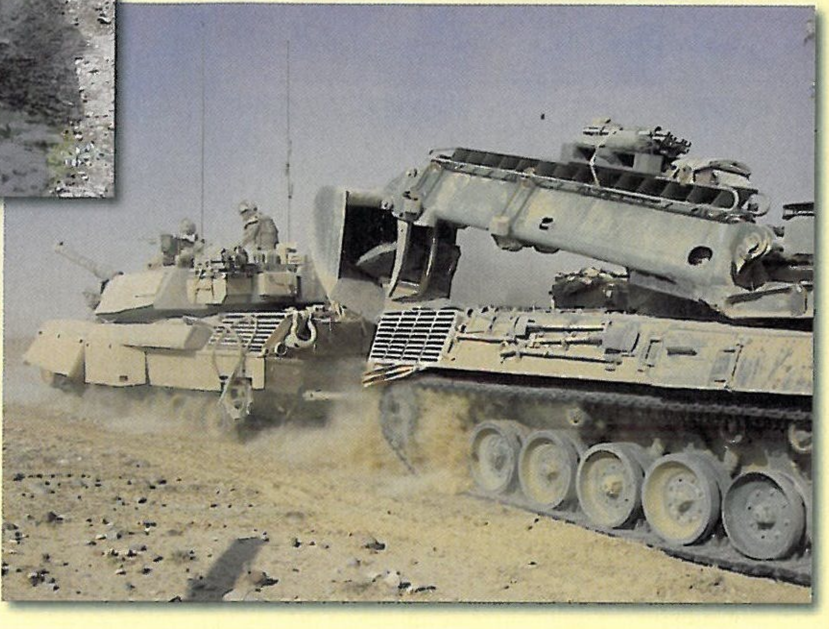
A Taurus ARV recovers call sign 13B, a dozer tank, after damaging the right track. Note that the right front MEXAS modules are missing and the glacis plate is strewn with debris.



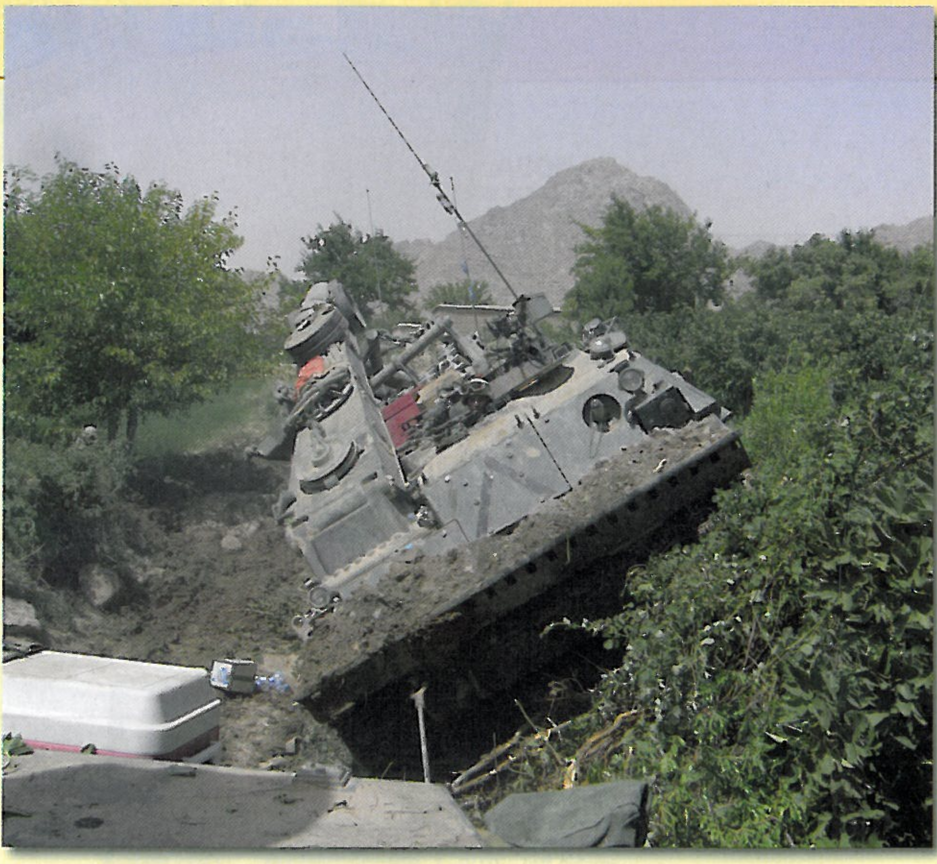
Call sign 12, the Troop Leader's tank of 2 Troop, is recovered after becoming bogged down on a narrow track in June 2007. The crew members are wearing ballistic helmets, fragmentation vests, and their C8 rifles lay ready on the turret.



Call sign 12A prepares to tow a disabled tank on a creek bed. Note the branches on the turret and back deck and the torn off left rear mud flap from travelling through heavy brush. Clearly visible on the turret is the red air recognition panel.

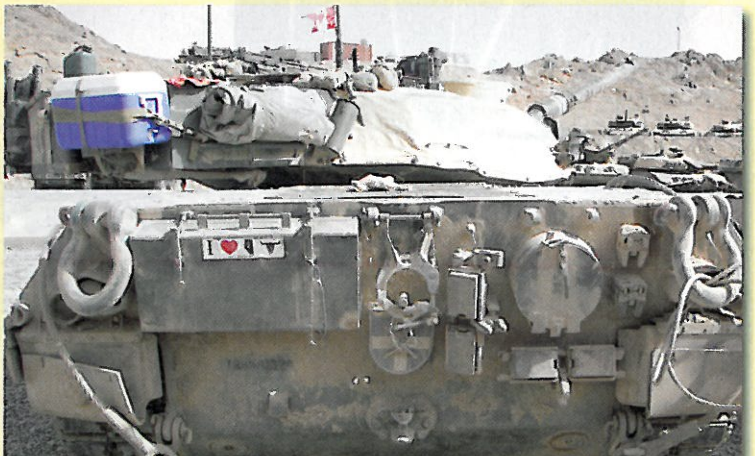


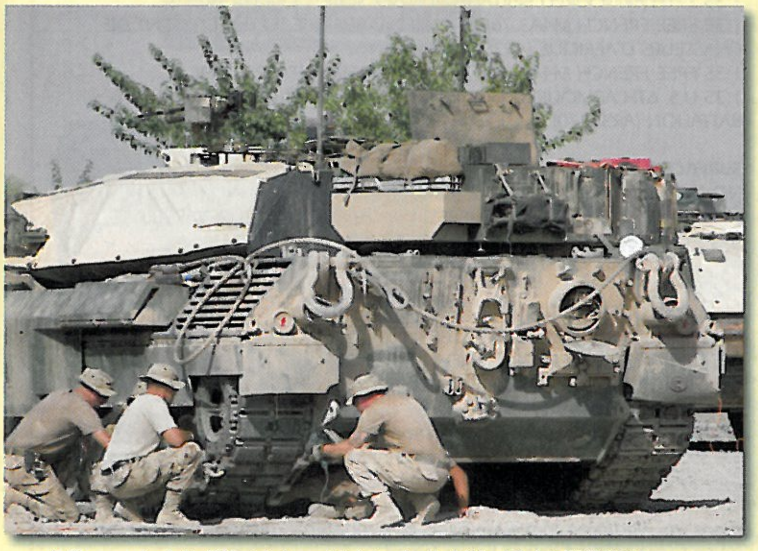
An incredibly dusty damaged Leopard C2 is towed by a Badger AEV. Note that the Leopard is missing the complete left track and the damaged appearance of the left side MEXAS modules. This photo was taken in July 2007 and clearly visible is the cooling unit mounted on the left side of the turret stowage bin. Note also the tyres missing from one of the Badger's road wheels.



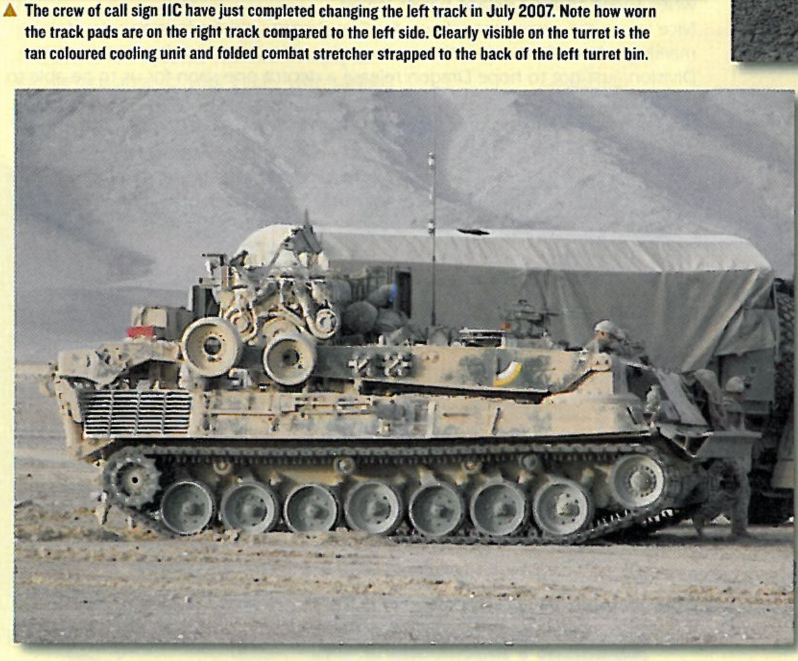
◀ A Taurus ARV sits in a very awkward position during a recovery operation. The Taurus is carrying a bank of mine rollers on the back deck.

▼ The clearly visible bumper sticker applied to the driver's toolbox on call sign 12B stands for "I Love Alberta Beef". The Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) is based in Edmonton, Alberta. Alberta is a Province in Canada well known for their very tasty beef cattle. Note the thinner LAV 3 tow cable attached to the right tow hook. The tow cable was used for both the recovery of lighter vehicles and to assist in pulling the track back on if it was removed for repair or if it was damaged.

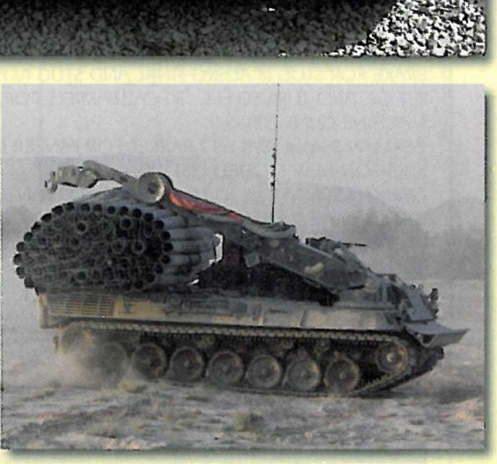




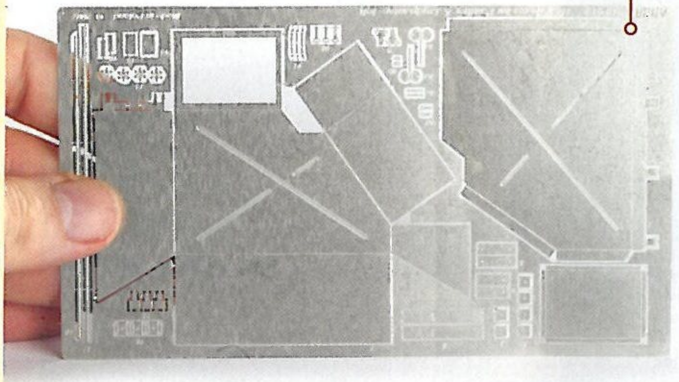
▲ The crew of call sign 11C have just completed changing the left track in July 2007. Note how worn the track pads are on the right track compared to the left side. Clearly visible on the turret is the tan coloured cooling unit and folded combat stretcher strapped to the back of the left turret bin.



◀ Call sign 18D, on one of the two Squadron Taurus ARV's, takes on supplies during a combat operation in July 2007. The Taurus is seen carrying a complete Leopard power pack, spare road wheels, and spare idler wheels.



▲ A very unique photo of a Taurus ARV in June 2007 carrying a fascine roll. The crane arm is being used to hold the fascine in place on the back deck. The ability of the crews to adapt to new missions and tactics provided the battle group continual momentum during operations.



ABER

ETCHED BRASS DETAIL SETS

1:48

BENCH TYPE A (48 A15)

GRILLES FOR KV-I/KV-2 TO FIT HOBBY BOSS KITS (48 A16)

1:35

PANZER III AUSF.J/L VOL 1 BASIC SET TO FIT NEW DRAGON KITS (35 217)

PANZER III AUSF.J/L VOL 2 ADDITIONAL SET (FENDERS) TO FIT NEW DRAGON KITS (35 218)

1:16

PANTHER AUSF.G VOL 1 BASIC SET TO FIT TAMIYA R/C MODEL (16 015)

PANTHER AUSF.G VOL 5 REAR TOOL BOXES TO FIT TAMIYA R/C MODEL (16 019)

Available from www.historex-agents.com

10/10 - The Editor

ABER

1:35 TURNED METAL GUN BARRELS

SOVIET 45MM TANK BARREL FOR KV-8/KV-8S MODEL 1942 FOR TRUMPETER KIT (35L-52)

GERMAN STUK.40 L/48 7.5CM BARREL WITH MIDDLE MODEL MUZZLE BRAKE FOR STUG III AUSF.G MID PRODUCTION (35L-59)

GERMAN STUK.40 L/48 7.5CM BARREL WITH LATE MODEL MUZZLE BRAKE FOR STUG III AUSF.G LATE AND STUG IV EARLY (35L-60)

GERMAN STUK.40 L/48 7.5CM BARREL WITH FINAL MODEL MUZZLE BRAKE FOR STUG III AUSF.G FINAL AND STUG IV FINAL (35L-61)

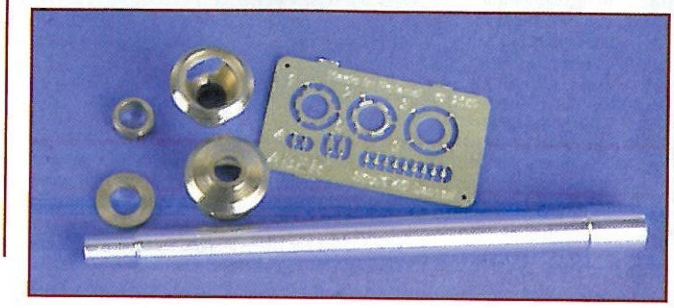
SET OF TWO TURNED U.S. .30 CAL BARRELS FOR BROWNING M-1919 A4 MACHINE GUNS (35L-62)

GERMAN 50MM KWK L/42 BARREL FOR PANZER III AUSF.G,H AND J EARLY (DRAGON NEW MODEL) (35L-64)

GERMAN 50MM KWK 39 L/60 BARREL FOR PANZER III AUSF.J (LATE),L,M (DRAGON NEW MODEL)(35L-65)

Available from www.historex-agents.com and direct from www.aber.net.pl

10/10 - The Editor



ARCHER FINE TRANSFERS

1:35 M1 HELMET INSIGNIAS (INCLUDING ALL COMBAT UNITS OF THE 101ST AIRBORNE IN WWII) (FG35055)

1:35 GERMAN FIRE EXTINGUISHER PLACARDS (28 PLACARDS IN 3 DIFFERENT STYLES FOUND ON WWII GERMAN VEHICLES) (AR35266)

1:35 27TH ARMOURED BRIGADE HUMBER SCOUT CAR (AR35267)

1:35 FREE FRENCH M4A3 76MM 2ND DIV BLINDEE, 12TH REGIMENT DE CHASSEURS D'AFRIQUE (AR35268)

1:35 FREE FRENCH M4A2 2ND AD 12TH REGIMENT (AR35269)

1:35 U.S. 6TH ARMOURED DIVISION JUMBO SHERMAN ITEM 15TH TANK BATTALION (AR35270)

SURFACE DETAILS

NO.10 FABRIC WEAVE TEXTURE (AR88010)

NO.11 1:32, 1:35, 1:24 WEATHERED WOOD GRAIN TEXTURE (AR88011)

NO.12 1:32, 1:35, 1:24 WOOD GRAIN TEXTURE (AR88012)

NO.13 RAISED PANEL LINES VARIOUS SCALES (AR88013)

1:35 POSTERS

US ARMOUR PROPAGANDA POSTERS AND PIN-UPS (AR35271)

US WOMEN AT WAR PROPAGANDA POSTERS (AR35272)

PIN-UPS 30 MAGAZINE SIZE PIN-UPS, SUITABLE FOR WWII AND KOREA (AR35273)

Another varied selection of products from Archer this month include a very nice selection of WWII posters and pin-ups printed using waterproof inks. More of the ingenious surface textures, this time they include wood grain and woven fabric, I think the raised panel line set would probably be most suited to aircraft modellers who need to replace panel lines which had been sanded smooth when trying to get fuselage halves joined.

Nice to see the some more sheets for Free French vehicles in their colourful markings. Also of interest is the set for a Sherman Jumbo of the 6th Armoured Division, just got to hope Dragon release a decent one soon for us to be able to use this set on!

Available from www.historex -agents.com and www.archertransfers.com

10/10 - The Editor

PROVENCE
32 32
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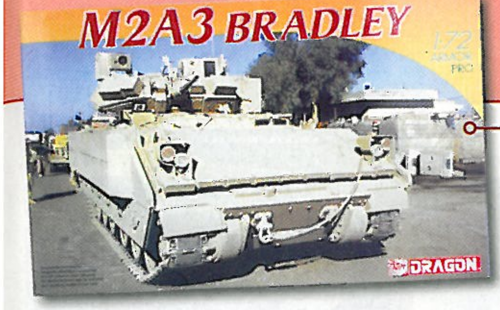
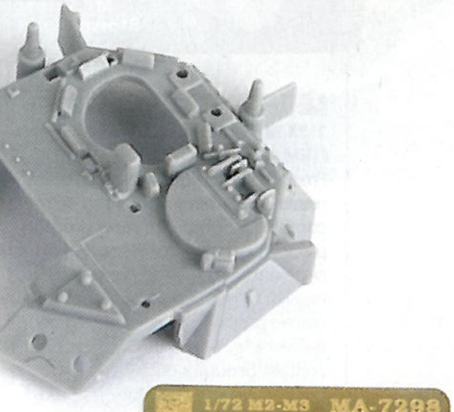
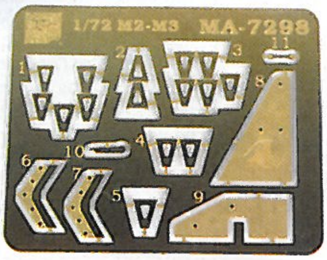
26
AQUINO
AR88010





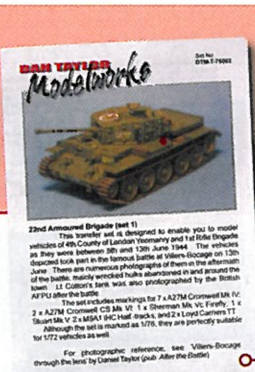


DRAGON

1;72 M2A3 BRADLEY
ITEM NO. 7324

Another Bradley release from Dragon and following on from their earlier release of the M3A2, this time the M2A3 with its distinctive Commanders Independent Thermal Viewer (CITV) mounted on the turret rear and a set of Explosive Reactive Armour (ERA). This kit comprises of 158 plastic parts, 11 etched brass and 22 DS100 parts including a set of tracks. As we have come to expect from Dragon the parts are crisply moulded and highly detailed. Highlights of which include, finely moulded mesh engine grilles, the ERA arrays are nicely done with tiny bolt head detail, the gunners Doghouse site can be depicted open or closed, the extra roof armour and the six part CITV is also well done. All hatches apart from the gunners can be depicted open and the only gripe some modellers may have with this kit is the fact that most of the tools are moulded onto the hull although in my opinion these are well done. Four marking options are included with this kit, three from units serving in Iraq and one based in Fort Irwin California, all finished in overall desert sand. Overall another cracking kit from Dragon. Recommended.

9/10 - Jeff Adams


Set No DTM-T-76002

DAN TAYLOR Modelworks

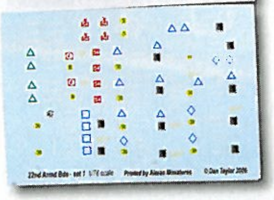
22nd Armoured Brigade (set 1)

This transfer set is designed to enable you to model vehicles of 4th County of London Yeomanry and 1st Rifle Brigade as they were between 5th and 13th June 1944. The vehicles depicted took part in the famous battle at Villers-Bocage on 13th June. There are numerous photographs of them in the aftermath of the battle, mainly wrecked hulks abandoned in and around the town. Lt Cotton's tank was also photographed by the British AFPU after the battle.

The set includes markings for 7 x A27M Cromwell Mk IV; 1 x 2 x A27M Cromwell CS Mk VI; 1 x Sherman Mk Vc Firefly; 1 x Stuart Mk V; 2 x M5A1 IHC Half-tracks, and 2 x Loyd Carriers TT.

Although the set is marked as 1/76, they are perfectly suitable for 1/72 vehicles as well.

For photographic reference, see 'Villers-Bocage through the lens' by Daniel Taylor (pub. *After the Battle*)

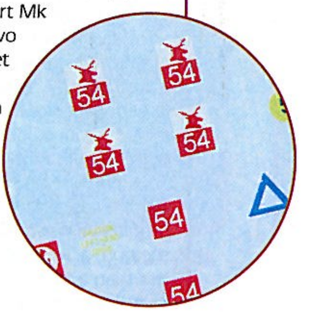


DAN TAYLOR MODEL WORKS

1:76 WATERSLIDE DECALS
22ND ARMOURED BRIGADE (SET1)
ITEM NO. DTM-T-76002

New to us are these very nice waterslide decals featuring Brigade and Arm of Service marking for various vehicles of the British 22nd Armoured Brigade. Markings are included for seven Cromwell Mk IV's, two Cromwell CS, one Sherman Vc Firefly, one Stuart Mk V, two M9 half tracks and two Loyd Carriers, making this set perfect for war gamers who need lots of markings and in general outstanding value for anyone interested in 1:76 or 1:72 British armour. Available from d-taylor@dircon.co.uk

10/10 - The Editor



Sherman Firefly
Stowage set
LEGEND
productions
LF4101
1/48 Scale Resin kit

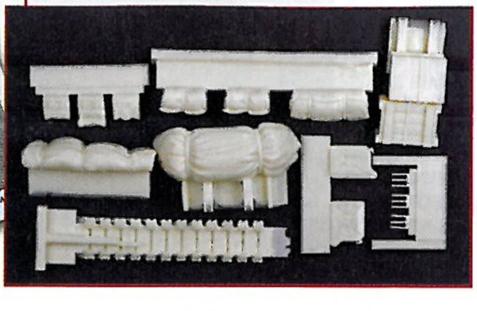
LEGEND PRODUCTIONS

1:48 FIREFLY STOWAGE
ITEM NO. LF 4101

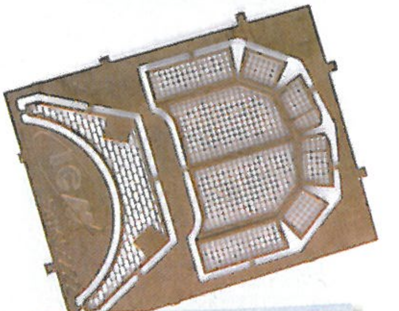
The number of 1:48 scale vehicles have over the last couple of years been increasing steadily and Legend has decided to move forward into this increasingly popular market. This set of resin pieces will cover nearly all the surface areas of your Firefly with various packs, rolls, boxes, buckets and spare tracks lengths. The drop on piece that fits onto the engine deck deserves special mention not only for its large and difficult to remove mould plug but as a lovely detailed bit of casting that with careful painting will set off your vehicle. On the negative side the track lengths in my example suffered from air bubbles on their outer face. Recommended.

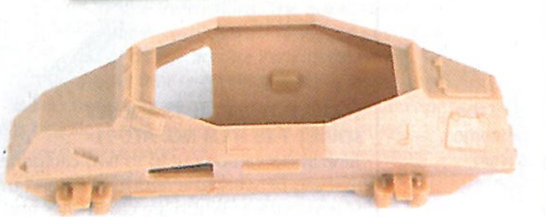
Available from www.friendshipmodels.com

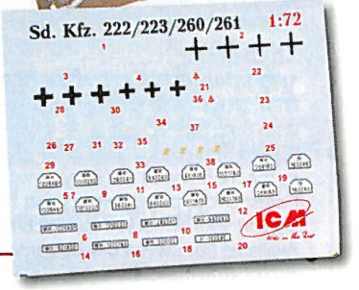
7/10 - Graeme Carruthers



Sd.Kfz.222
German Light Armored Vehicle
1:72
72411
ICM







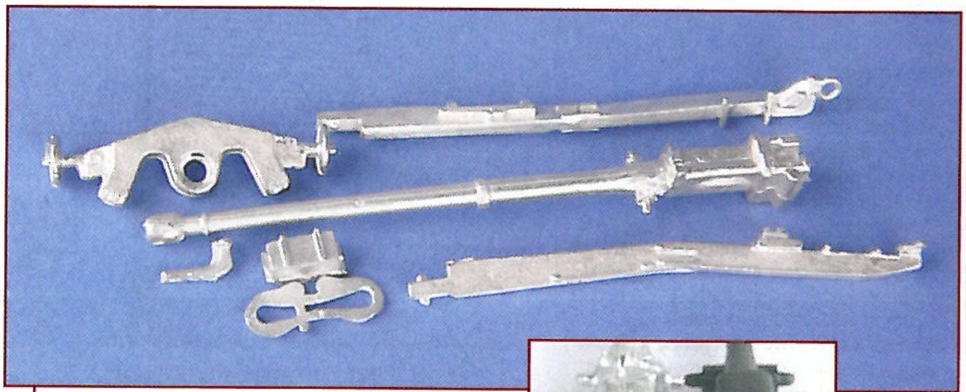
ICM

1:72 SDKFZ 222 GERMAN LIGHT ARMOURED VEHICLE ITEM NO. 72411

The SDKFZ 222 Armoured Car has always been one of my favourite vehicles ever since Airfix released their German reconnaissance set which included a 222 with a Kubelwagen. Now ICM have released a brand new tooling of this light armoured car. This tiny kit comprises of 55 plastic parts and two etched brass parts. This kit is crisply moulded and well detailed. Highlights include separately moulded tools, tiny towing hooks, very finely moulded main gun and secondary machine gun and the etched brass anti-grenade screen is also nicely done. Some modellers may bemoan the fact that their is no internal detail although you cannot see much past the main gun and some of the parts are so tiny that care will need to be taken when removing from the sprue. Only two marking options are included, one finished in overall sand and serving with the Afrika Korps and the other in overall panzer grey serving in Russia, although the decal sheet is a generic one and includes a lot of markings for the spares box. Overall a smashing little kit, recommended.

Distributed in the UK by www.creativemodels.co.uk

8/10 - Jeff Adams



MATADOR MODELS

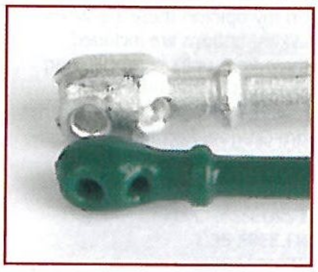
1:76 17 PDR AT GUN UPGRADE FOR THE REVELL KIT ITEM NO. KCB-49

For anyone wanting to add a bit of extra detailing to the re-boxed Matchbox 17pdr, then Matador Models have the answer with this set of white metal castings, including a new gun complete with breach assembly, trail arms and trunnions mount. The trail arms are nicely produced and cleanly cast and offer slightly straighter arms than the Revell offerings. The barrel assembly offers a slightly thicker barrel and larger re-shaped muzzle brake, our sample will need a bit of work to clean-up the casting line and drill out the holes in the muzzle brake.

The improvements over the kit parts are noticeable, but the cost of the detailing set maybe a little prohibitive when considering the Revell kit includes the gun, a Jeep, Morris truck and a diorama base for less than a fiver!

Available from www.matadormodels.co.uk

6.5/10 - The Editor



www.www-legend.co.kr
Staghound
Stowage set
(for Bronco Model)
LF1157

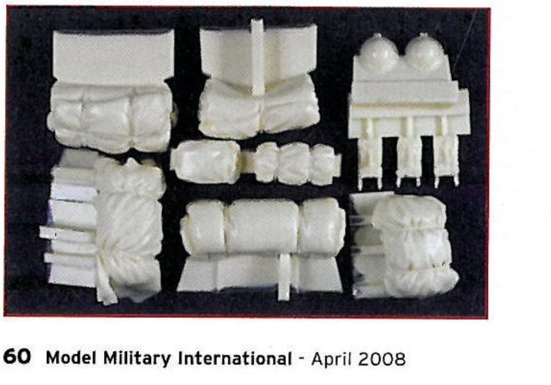
LEGEND PRODUCTIONS

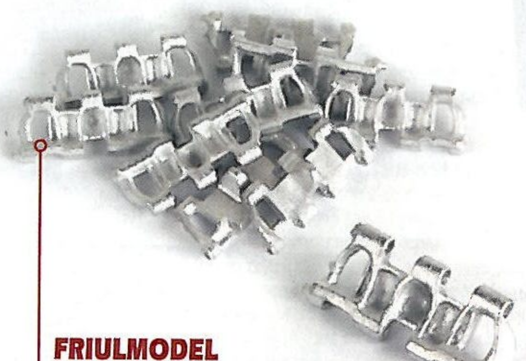
1:35 STAGHOUND STOWAGE SET
ITEM NO. LF 1157

With both Bronco and Italeri both releasing kits of the Staghound recently then this set will be very welcome to the modeller. In the set you will find various resin boxes, packs, bags, helmets and buckets to drape around your armoured car. Recommended.

Available from www.friendshipmodels.com

8/10 - Graeme Carruthers





FRIULMODEL

1:35 WHITE METAL TRACK SET
SOVIET T-28 ITEM NO. ATL-91

Tank tracks can be put in to two categories, those that sag between the return rollers and those like Sherman tracks which are called 'live' and don't tend to sag. This is due to the fact that when the track is removed from the tank it naturally wants to curl up, this design feature is supposed to help prevent the track from being thrown.

Well the Soviet T-28 definitely fits into the 'saggy' category and therefore is a prime candidate for the Friulmodel treatment, as usual the individual links have been expertly cast in white metal and include their trademark coil of wire for joining each one together. As I have stated before these are my favourite tracks, I admit they are a little time consuming to assemble, but the end result is worth the effort. wholeheartedly recommended.

Available from www.historex-agents.com

9.5/10 - The Editor

www.www-legend.co.kr
M7 Priest
Stowage set
1/35 Scale Resin kit LF1156

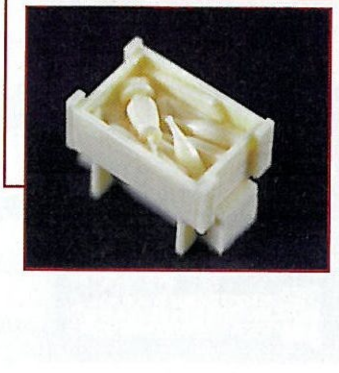
LEGEND PRODUCTIONS

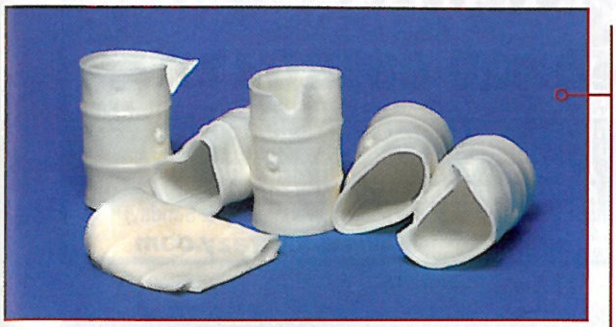
1:35 M7 PRIEST STOWAGE SET
ITEM NO. LF 1156

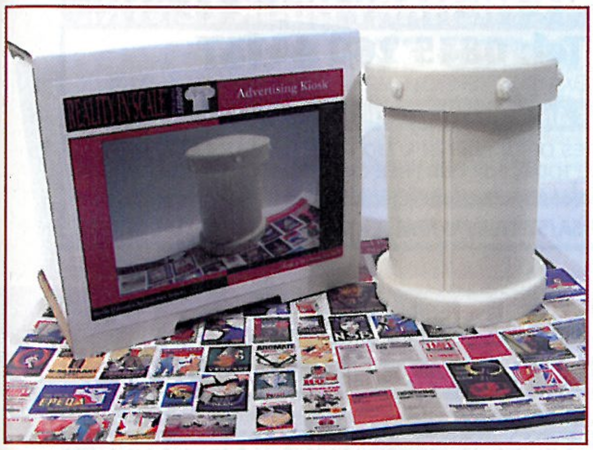
Presumably designed for the recently released Academy Priest, this set contains a number of resin drop-on pieces for the engine deck and front plate and also a large number of individual resin pieces that can be placed around any spare areas of the vehicle. The large drop-on pieces contain beautiful details that will look great when carefully painted, however they do have large resin pour plugs that will need careful removal. Wartime photos show the Priest festooned in stowage so this set will be very useful to the modeller. Recommended.

Available from www.friendshipmodels.com

8/10 - Graeme Carruthers



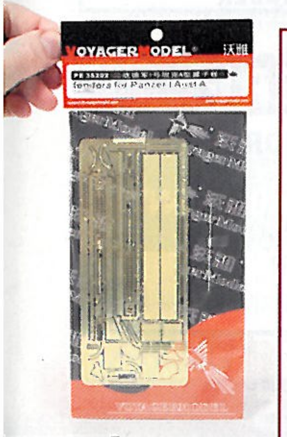


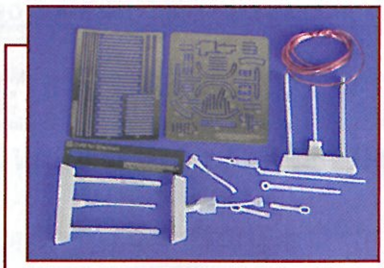


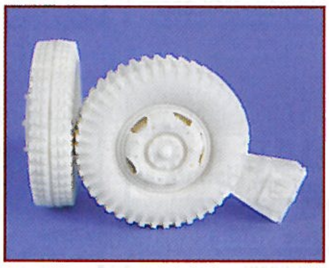
REALITY IN SCALE

DIORAMA ACCESSORIES 1:35
ITEM NO'S 35007, 35025, 35026,

There is a new kid on the block, namely Reality in Scale. This new Dutch company is specialising in resin diorama accessories and printed matter.
First up is item no 35007: 'crushed and dented oil drums' which consists of six cleanly cast crushed and dented oil drums, with commendably thin walls, excellent for filling that empty corner in your next diorama. 35025 is labelled 'Round advertising kiosk' and is said to be modelled after an example found in Amsterdam. It is again cleanly cast in cream coloured resin, with some very nice detail that should stand out nicely when painted. It comes with a sheet of Dutch commercial and military posters to dress it up. If you want to place the kiosk in Germany, then maybe 35026 is what you are looking for. This is a sheet of German commercial and military posters, to be used on the kiosk or that empty wall of the house on your next diorama. Unlike other manufacturers posters these are printed on thin matt paper, for a true scale appearance.
Available from www.realityinscale.com
9/10 - Jan Peters







VOYAGER MODEL

1:35 DETAIL SETS

This month we have a wide variety of sets from etched brass Sun Flowers to various patterned Sd.Kfz 234 wheels and as usual the quality is superb from the very neat packaging, to the clear and concise instructions. The boxed detail sets for the Sd.Kfz 234/3 and FLAK panzer I Ausf A each contain nine frets of various sizes along with metal parts, plastic rod and clear acetate instrument panels. Being a bit of a Shermanaholic, the one set that really caught my eye was the OVM set for the Sherman. This set contains three small etched frets containing all the important items such as headlight and tail light guards, tool holders and retaining straps. To complement these parts Voyager have included some beautifully cast resin pioneer tools and tow cable ends as well as a length of Karaya style multi-strand soft copper wire for the actual tow cable. A great little set for anyone wanting to add that extra finesse to their latest M4.

WWII PANZER 38T AUSF.G (FOR DRAGON 6290) (PE 35143)
WWII PANZER III AUSF.J (FOR DRAGON 6394) (PE 35157)
FENDERS FOR PANZER III MID/LATE (FOR DML) (PE 35158)
WWII SD.KFZ 234/3 8RAD (FOR DRAGON 6257) (PE35167)
M51 SHERMAN (FOR DRAGON 3529/3539) (PE35182)
FENDERS FOR PANZER I AUSF.A (FOR DML) (PE35202)
FLAK PANZER I AUSF.A (FOR DRAGON 6220) (PE35203)
1:35 STOWAGE BINS FOR PANZER 38T PATTERN 1 (FOR DML) (PEA105)
1:35 STOWAGE BINS FOR PANZER 38T PATTERN 2 (FOR DML) (PEA106)
OVM FOR SHERMAN FAMILY (FOR ALL) (PEA107)
BULGED ROAD WHEELS FOR SD.KFZ. 234 PATTERN 1 (FOR DML) (PEA110)
ROAD WHEELS FOR SD.KFZ.234 PATTERN 2 (FOR DML) (PEA111)
BULGED ROAD WHEELS FOR SD.KFZ. 234 PATTERN 3 (FOR DML) (PEA112)
ROAD WHEELS FOR SD.KFZ.234 PATTERN 4 (FOR DML) (PEA113)
SUN FLOWERS (BIG) (TE 025)

Available from www.voyagermodel.com
10/10 - The Editor

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ww2prod@optusnet.com.au

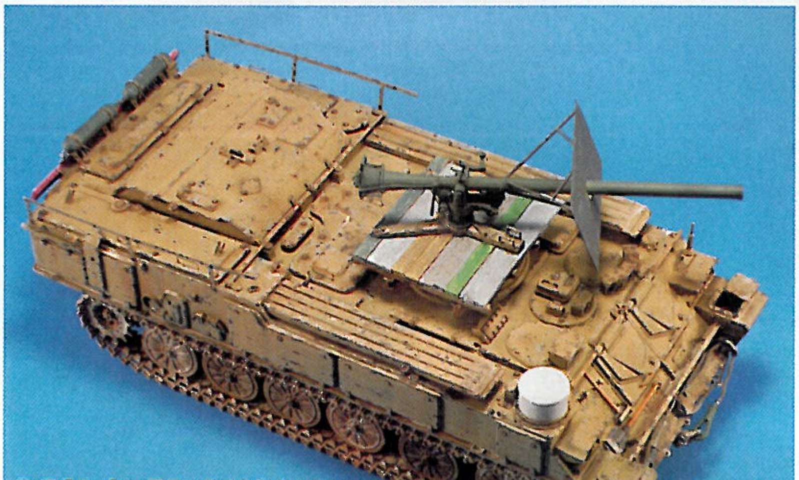
■ ***Please mention 'Model Military International' if you make contact with any of the companies listed above - thanks!***

Next Issue

On sale April 3rd 2008

THE AIR CAV

John Wilkes puts Dragon's 1:35 UH-1 Huey into a scene reminiscent of something from Apocalypse Now.



RECYCLED RUSSIAN

José Brito does something a little different with Trumpeter's SAM-6.

PAPER PANZER

Luke Pitt builds and reviews Trumpeter's E-25 "what if" German tank destroyer.

...and much more!

Due to many influencing factors, we cannot guarantee the appearance of the above projects, but we'll try our best!

FOR YOUR SAFETY

Don't forget, when using solvents such as glues, paints, thinners and cleaning agents, always ventilate your work area thoroughly and wear a face mask.

When using power tools, side cutters or any tool that can suddenly break or create high-speed airborne particles, wear approved eye protectors with hard, clear lenses. Please always model in safety!

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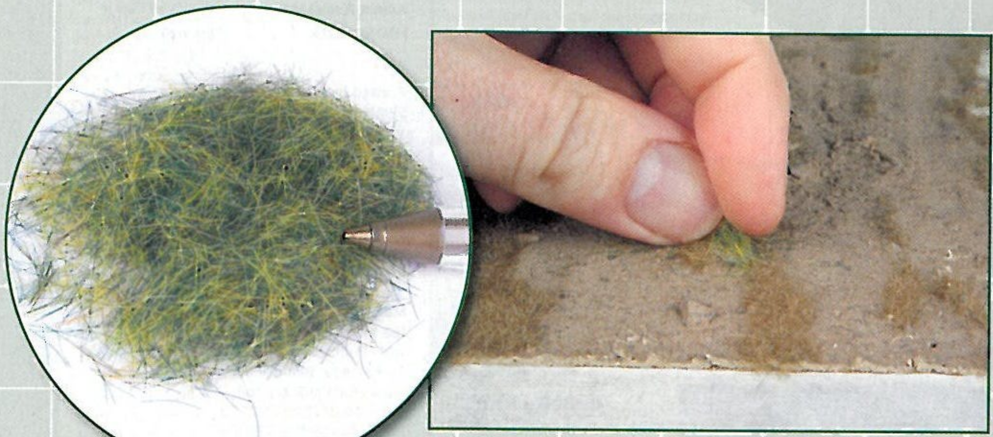
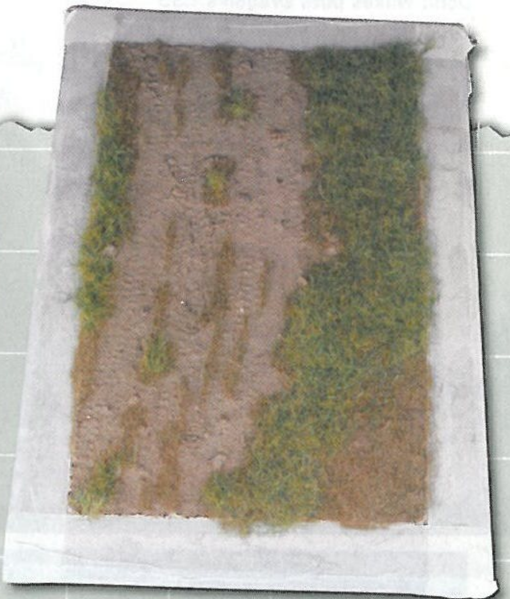
MAKING SIMPLE GROUNDWORK PART 3

This month we will carry on adding the various grasses to the scene.

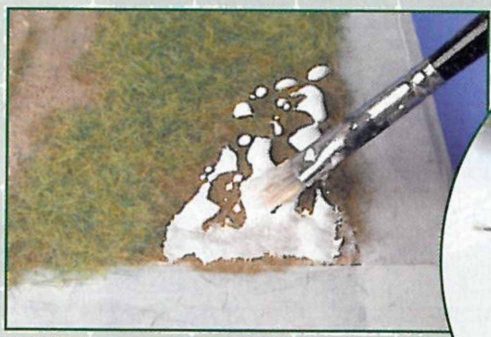


The next stage is to add the longer Heki Wild grass to selected areas. The idea is to vary the length of the grass for a natural look, if you only use one length of grass the scene will end up looking more like a garden lawn!



The Heki Wild grass is now in place, and again the excess is removed by gently tapping the base. The bottom right corner has not been covered as this is where the hanging basket liner will be glued on.

To fix the basket liner in place, PVA is applied straight from the bottle without any thinning.



The PVA is then spread out using a wide flat paint brush.

A piece of basket liner has now been cut to size. Note that it has been glued on upside down, this will be made clear later.

The liner needs to be pressed down firmly, then held in place with a suitable weight. When laying the grass over a contoured surface, low tack masking tape can be used to hold the liner down while the glue sets.

After the glue has been left to dry fully, the woven backing material can be carefully pulled away to reveal the grass.

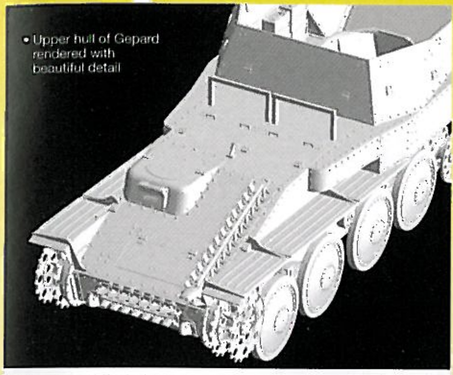
This long grass can now be trimmed to the required length suitable for the scene.

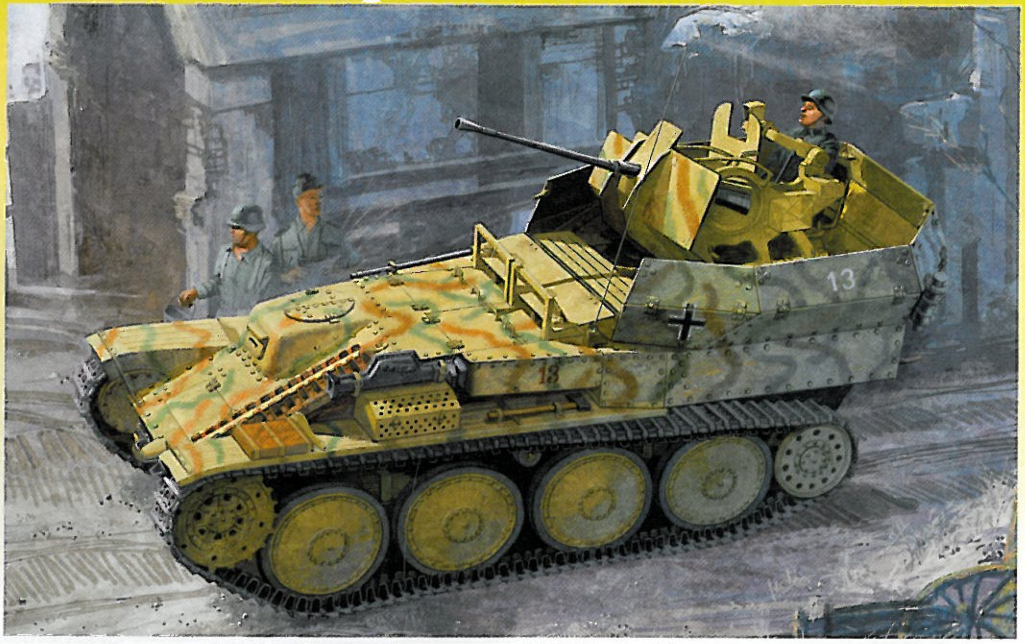
1:35 '39-'45 SERIES

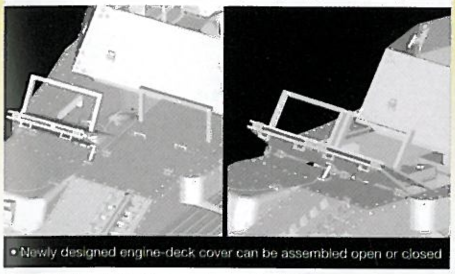
Flakpanzer 38(t) Sd.Kfz.140 auf (Sf) Ausf.L "Gepard"

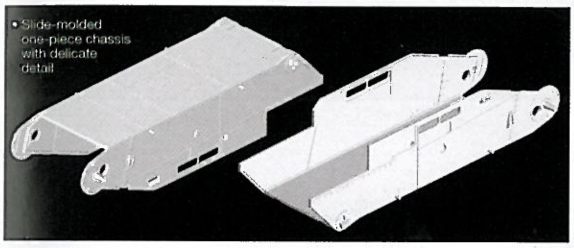
Smart Kit

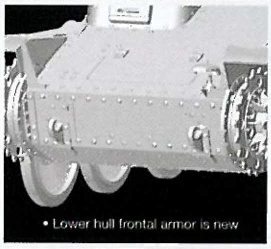
- Engineered for modeling enjoyment
- Plastic parts with enhanced detail
- Unprecedented value
- Ready for instant assembly!

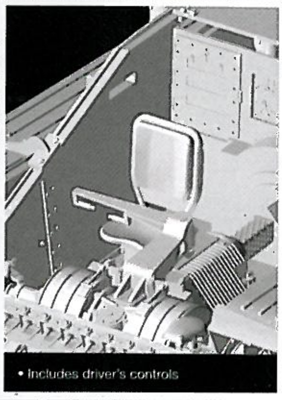

- Upper hull of Gepard rendered with beautiful detail




- Newly designed engine-deck cover can be assembled open or closed


- Slide-molded one-piece chassis with delicate detail

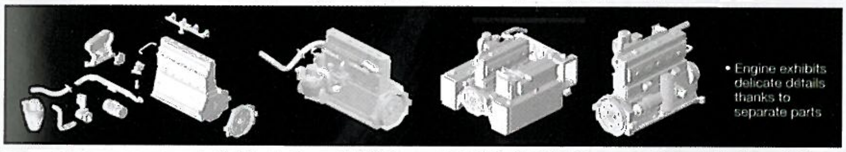

- Lower hull frontal armor is new

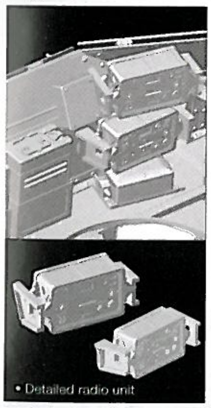

- Includes driver's controls

- Transmission system w/excellent detail
- Driver's seats have crisp detail

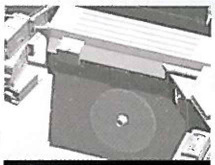
- Finely detailed firewall

- Both locked and unlocked catches included as separate detailed parts

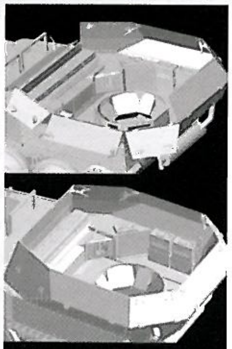

- Engine exhibits delicate details thanks to separate parts

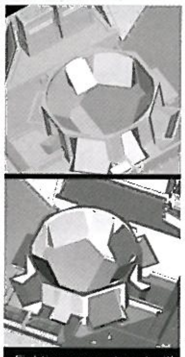

- Detailed radio unit

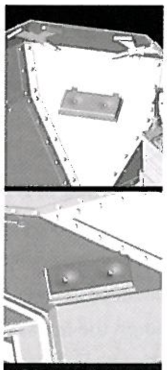
- Open-topped fighting compartment specially designed to accommodate 2cm Flak 38

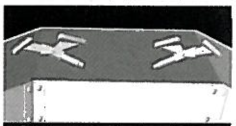

- Engine compartment rear panel is sharply detailed
- Barrel case included inside fighting compartment

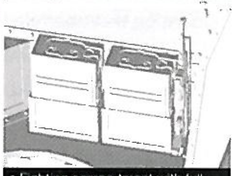
- Special design for flak gun mount with ammunition box storage

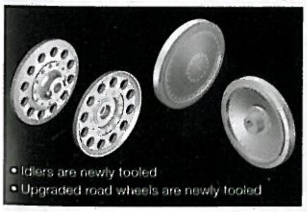

- Fighting compartment armor can be positioned up or down in travel or combat modes


- Fighting compartment with raised floor to accommodate 2cm Flak 38


- Crisply detailed seat for flak crewman

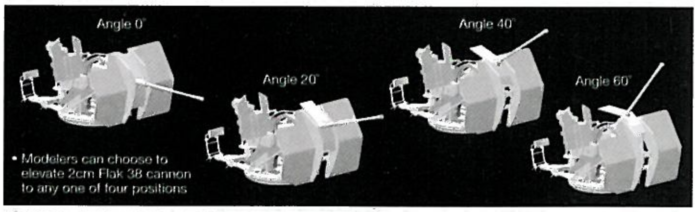

- Catches on inside of rear fighting compartment armor to secure it during travel


- Fighting compartment with full interior detail – reinforcement strips with bolt detail realistically represented


- Idlers are newly tooled
- Upgraded road wheels are newly tooled

- Gun shield is molded to scale thickness

- Slide-molded gun barrel w/hollow muzzle opening

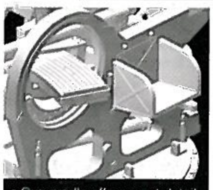


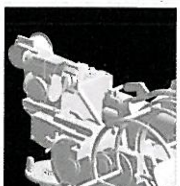
- Modelers can choose to elevate 2cm Flak 38 cannon to any one of four positions

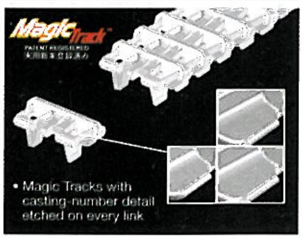
- Ammunition boxes with fine detail

- Round base plate with authentic details

- Spent shell case frame and photo-etched mesh included
- Spent shell cases made from preformed photo-etched parts


- Gun cradle offers great detail definition – even weld seams are present


- Gun sight with well-defined details



- Magic Tracks with casting-number detail etched on every link

DRAGON

www.dragon-models.com e-mail: info@dragon-models.com **6469**

Dragon Kits are distributed in the UK by; The Hobby Company, Knowlhill, Milton Keynes, MK5 8PG

Dragon models are available from all good model shops

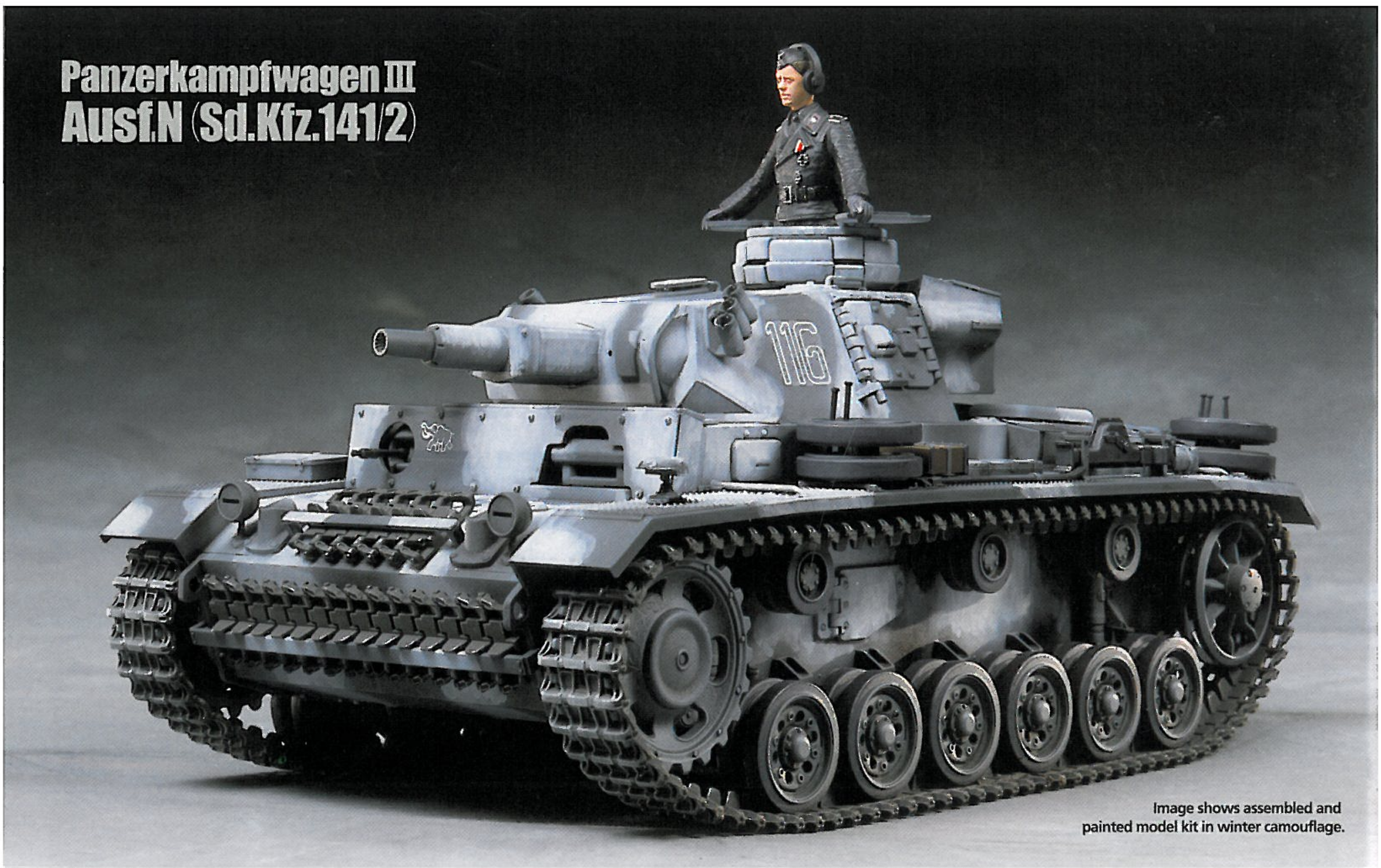


Image shows assembled and painted model kit in winter camouflage.

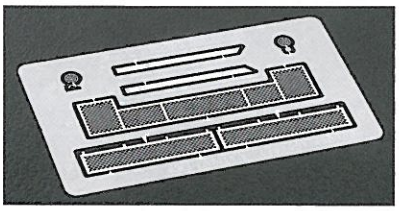
Short and Simple

1/35 German Panzerkampfwagen III Ausf.N

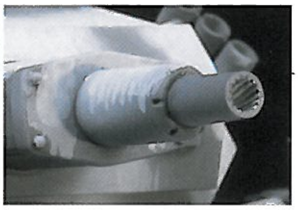
Item 35290

Pz.Kpfw.III Armed With Short-Barreled 75mm Gun

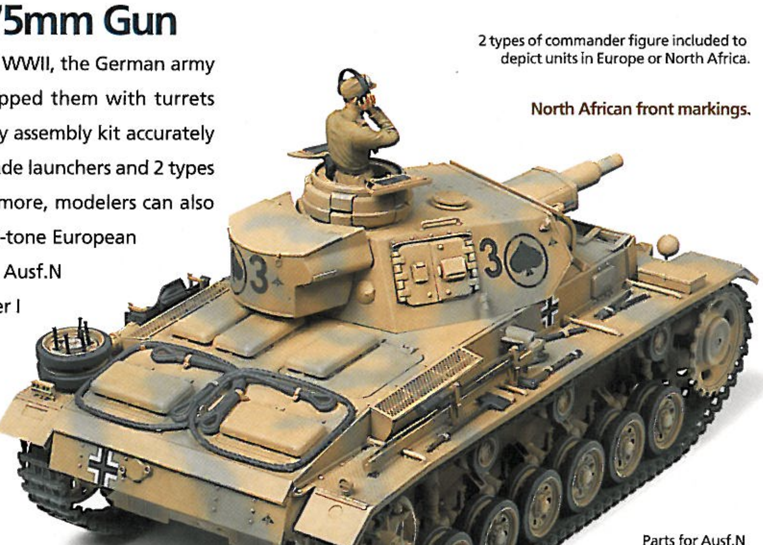
In order to meet the shortage of fire support vehicles during the middle stages of WWII, the German army took existing stocks of reliable Pz.Kpfw.III Ausf.J, L, and M tanks and re-equipped them with turrets mounting short-barreled 75mm guns to produce the Ausf.N. Tamiya's high-quality assembly kit accurately reproduces this tank down to the rifled gun barrel, and with parts for smoke grenade launchers and 2 types of gun mount included, modelers can build several different variations. Furthermore, modelers can also choose between 4 sets of markings, which depict units with winter camouflage, 3-tone European front camouflage, or a unit on the North African front. In battle, the Pz.Kpfw.III Ausf.N were assigned to independent heavy panzer battalions to provide support for Tiger I tanks, making this model ideal for a diorama with its more glamorous sibling.



Engine grilles are depicted using high-precision photo-etched parts for greater detail.



Included aluminum gun barrel features realistic rifling texture.



2 types of commander figure included to depict units in Europe or North Africa.

North African front markings.

Parts for Ausf.N barrel cleaning rod and other tools included.

Kit comes with 4 different sets of markings.

Length: 154mm

Choose From a Full Lineup of 1/35 Scale WWII German Panzers

1/35 German Pz.Kpfw.III Ausf.L (35215)

1/35 German Pz.Kpfw.IV Ausf.H Early Version (35209)

1/35 German Pz.Kpfw.IV Ausf.J (35181)

1/35 German Tank Crew At Rest (35201)

TAMIYA

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